

# THE CHAT



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Number 1





*Founded March 6, 1937*

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The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *THE CHAT*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from federal and state income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and the out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular . . . . .	\$1.00	Contributing . . . . .	\$25.00
Supporting . . . . .	\$5.00	Affiliated Club . . . . .	\$2.00
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All members not in arrears for dues receive *THE CHAT*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *THE CHAT*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *THE CHAT* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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# THE CHAT

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MARCH, 1952

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## CONTENTS

North Carolina's Wildlife Education Program. <i>Rod Amundson</i> . . . . .	2
A Beef Cattle And Bluebird Farm. <i>D. A. Tillinghast</i> . . . . .	4
A Hawk Migration Project For The Carolinas. <i>Wm. P. VanEseltine</i> . . . . .	6
Annual Meeting Of Carolina Bird Club (Notice) . . . . .	7
Annual Meeting Of Wilson Ornithological Club (Notice) . . . . .	7
Backyard Birding. <i>Annie Rivers Faver</i> , editor . . . . .	8
Spring Migration Of Indigo Buntings and Summer Tanagers. <i>A. M. Bagg</i> . . . . .	10
Among Our Members. <i>Charlotte Hilton Green</i> , editor . . . . .	11
Books. <i>T. L. Quay, E. P. Odum, and R. L. Weaver</i> . . . . .	14
The Bull's Island—Mt. Pleasant Field Trip (Report). <i>C. H. Green</i> . . . . .	16
Christmas Census, 1951. <i>B. R. Chamberlain, et al.</i> . . . . .	16
General Field Notes. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , editor . . . . .	24
The Vegetation Of The Southport Region. <i>B. W. Wells</i> . . . . .	28
Spring Field Trip To Southport (Announcement) . . . . .	Inside Back Cover

**Cover Photograph**—Nesting Great Horned Owls photographed by Jack Dermid at Raleigh, N. C. These two youngsters were removed from their nest 60 feet up in a loblolly pine, lowered to the ground in a basket, photographed, then returned to their nest. The adults remained quietly away from the scene. Examination of pellets revealed that the family had recently fed on one cottontail rabbit, six Norway rats, and three cotton rats.

# NORTH CAROLINA'S WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM

ROD AMUNDSON, *Chief*  
*Education Division, Wildlife Resources Commission*

The history of wildlife management (including *all* forms of wild creatures) has been the history of a search for a panacea—a cure-all medium that would bring about the restoration of a dwindling resource. Law enforcement—protection—was of first and lasting importance, but it alone was not the savior of the resource. Along came predator control, the refuge and sanctuary system, the game farm and the fish hatchery. Each of these management tools was received with enthusiasm as the salvation for wildlife. Each failed to perform the miracle expected of it, although all have had an important part in the total wildlife conservation effort. Then came the era of the biologists, professionals who were hired to find out why these tools failed individually, and what measures should be taken to make them work; which phases should be discarded and which should be emphasized. These findings are worthless unless the general public is informed of them. They cannot be put into practice until the public is convinced of their soundness and is willing to help with the job. Now sportsmen and conservationists and nature lovers are turning toward education as the means of coordinating the tools and parts of wildlife conservation into a smoothly functioning machine.

What is being done in North Carolina by way of bringing to the general public, through education, an awareness of the need and importance of wildlife conservation? Universities, colleges, the Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and many other State, Federal and private agencies are becoming increasingly concerned with conservation of natural resources. Our concern here is the activities of the Wildlife Resources Commission's Education Division, which may be classified into three general phases: publications, extension, and audio-visual.

**PUBLICATIONS:** In volume of copy and frequency of appearance, the Commission's magazine *Wildlife In North Carolina* is by far the most important and effective publication. It is published monthly (at fifty cents per year) and has a circulation approaching 30,000 copies per month, reaching a total readership of something like 150,000 each month.

**EXTENSION:** Perhaps the most important phase of the Commission's conservation education work is that of contacting directly schools, clubs, and civic organizations. What our Nation will be a few years hence depends largely on the type of training our youth is given today. This idea applies importantly to the training our young people get with regard to conservation of our resources.

Since the Wildlife Commission is not a tax-supported agency but depends directly on the hunter and the fisherman for its revenue, its first obligation is to protect and restore through law enforcement and wildlife management these species in which hunters and anglers are most interested. In recent years, however, more and more sportsmen have come to the conclusion that public education is necessary to a continued progressive wildlife conservation program, and for this reason are more willing to

see their license dollar spent on working with youth and adult groups in education activities.

Thus far only one person has been working full time directly with schools. She averages 2,000 miles per month contacting schools, and in the three years she has been employed has visited over 750 schools in thirty counties. These contacts involve organizing junior wildlife clubs and presenting teachers with study materials which are incorporated into the school curriculum. At least 70,000 youngsters have been reached in this manner, in addition to dozens of 4-H, FFA, Garden and Bird Clubs, and other organized groups. Although this is remarkable, it shows the need for more extension workers to carry the education program to all of the thousands of schools in North Carolina's 100 counties.

Wildlife Commission personnel attend teachers' workshops to aid in training teachers to teach conservation. In addition to Education Division personnel, many people in other divisions also make imposing numbers of public contacts each year which further bring about an awareness for the need of wildlife conservation.

Altogether the Wildlife Resources Commission has in Education Division five full-time wildlife education specialists, and two stenographers who handle a vast volume of direct correspondence and the circulation of published literature. The staff is small but vitally energetic. It has accomplished a great deal in the few short years it has been in existence, but there is much more to be done in the future. The cooperation of the Carolina Bird Club is needed!

Each school in the State receives at least one copy of the magazine, as do libraries, courthouses, and other public places. The magazine is also sent to barber shops and physicians' offices where it reaches a great many people each month.

Each year a total of about 400,000 copies of fishing and hunting regulations are printed and given license buyers as a means of informing them of the laws and regulations protecting wildlife species.

From time to time informational bulletins are printed and distributed to interested persons. Most of these originate with the Fish and Game Management Divisions and are circulated by the Education Division.

The above media, together with widely-used press releases, reach a large section of North Carolina's population. We still, however, need and strive to reach more.

**AUDIO-VISUAL:** During World War II the effectiveness of posters was clearly demonstrated, and the Commission has used posters as a means of influencing the thinking of the Tar Heel public. Each year a series of posters on safety and conservation are distributed and posted in conspicuous places throughout the State. Although their effect is difficult to measure, it is certain that they have an important impact on public thinking.

For nearly three years the Education Division has produced, transcribed, and distributed a weekly radio program to an average of twenty radio stations. Time for the program is donated by the cooperating stations as a public service feature, and it would be impossible to determine how many thousands or millions of people have been reached through this medium.

The Commission maintains a library of sixteen motion picture films, all in sound and color. Included in the library is a twenty-minute film produced by the Commission showing the problems of wildlife conservation in North Carolina and outlining what is being done to solve these problems. These films have been extremely popular with schools, clubs, and civic organizations, and are viewed, at a conservative estimate, by about a quarter of a million people each year. They are loaned free of charge except for return transportation by mail or express.

Education today will not immediately add fish to our streams or game to our coverts; it can only encourage the cooperation of all citizens to make North Carolina a better place in which to live. Only through cooperation of all pertinent agencies and organizations can active conservation of wildlife and our other renewable natural resources be made an actuality. The work of the Carolina Bird Club is of the greatest importance in this cause.—*Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 15, 1951.*

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## A BEEF CATTLE AND BLUEBIRD FARM

D. A. TILLINGHAST

Some 500 little Bluebirds saw their first light of day from boxes placed at intervals on fence posts encircling the large cattle farm of P. C. Higginbotham, Greenville farm implement dealer, this past summer.

Early last spring, Mr. Higginbotham set up 62 Bluebird boxes on his pasture posts, well spaced, and except in a few instances where wasps beat the birds to them, all were used one, two, possibly three times by the numerous pairs of birds attracted to the neat homes. The 62 boxes in use the past year will be increased for the coming season and Mr. Higginbotham hopes that the crop may approach 1,000 this time. He still has plenty of posts available as his pasture fences enclose a large acreage. The boxes are made of the wood used in apple crates, which is light and thick enough to make substantial homes. Mechanics in Higginbotham's shop have aided in the carpentry work.

Though the farm is 25 miles from Greenville, the owner makes frequent trips to the scene and while 70 head of cattle may be the main business of his visits, he always has time to scan the skies and the wires for a sight of the Bluebirds he loves. Flocks of as many as 30 at a time are present even in the off-season.

Mr. Higginbotham's interest in the bright, colorful, and inoffensive Bluebird goes back to his boyhood when he used to watch them nest in the orchard near his home. He saw them make use of cavities in old trees, made by weather damage, and through the years harbored a warm spot in his heart for the species. When he purchased a large tract of well-worn land some years ago and decided that, with some soil conservation practices, it could be converted into a profitable beef cattle farm, the thought of stocking it with Bluebirds also came along.

Despite the fact that some people seemed to have the idea that there were fewer Bluebirds today than formerly, he had his boxes made and



P. C. Higginbotham

*Greenville Piedmont*

put up. The birds came, as they often will when offered even half-way inducement, and all summer he watched first one clutch mature and then another.

While Bluebirds are common in this area, they will be still more so as P. C. Higginbotham perpetuates his unique idea of raising them wholesale.  
—*The Greenville Piedmont, Greenville, S. C., January 17, 1952.*

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1952 are now payable. Prompt remittance will save the Treasurer much work and expense. The names and addresses of the entire membership will be published in the June issue of *The Chat*. If all 750 members in good standing for 1951 renew for 1952 our total membership will be well over 1,000. This is a worthy goal!

# A HAWK MIGRATION PROJECT FOR THE CAROLINAS

WM. P. VANESELTINE

During the fall, hawks which nest in the northern states and Canada migrate southward. The extent and paths of this migration have long been studied in New England and Pennsylvania, and in recent years also in Maryland, West Virginia, and Tennessee. Particular attention has been paid to the Broad-winged Hawk, as this species travels more in flocks and exhibits a more spectacular migration than others.

This fall (1951) Mr. Chandler S. Robbins (Editor of *Audubon Field Notes*) asked the writer to organize a hawk migration study in South Carolina. Though plans and requests had to be made hurriedly, 28 co-operators responded. Observations were made mostly between September 18 and October 7. Twenty-four reports showed 68 hours spent in the field, while 14 more did not list the hours.

Results were most promising in the mountains, where observations were made by Gabriel Cannon, R. A. Cole, H. E. Correll, J. R. Dapper, Ruth Gilreath, Gladys Hart, Rosa Lee Hart, May W. Puett, D. A. Tillinghast, E. S. Tillinghast, W. P. and Mrs. VanEseltine, D. E. Wade, J. O. Watkins, and R. E. Ware. Several groups of 3 to 7 hawks each were seen, which were probably migrating. Perhaps the most interesting report came from a Mr. Staggs of Landrum, Spartanburg County, who phoned to Gabriel Cannon that he had observed 18 hawks, all flying southwest, within fifteen minutes. For the most part, however, this fall we apparently missed the right places and times to see whatever extensive migratory movements might have occurred.

For the remainder of the State, only negative results were obtained. A watch was kept by Mrs. G. E. Charles, E. R. Cuthbert, Mrs. W. H. Faver, Mrs. Olin Griffin, W. F. B. Haynsworth, Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, H. R. Mathewson, Fred Sample, Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Mrs. H. E. Sloan, and several others whose names did not appear on the reports. While a number of hawks of several species were seen, all were single birds, possibly local residents, and no indication of any mass movement of hawks could be detected.

These observations constitute only the mere beginning of hawk migration studies in the Carolinas. It is hoped that the project can be continued for the next several years, with particular attention being paid to the mountains where migration is likely to be most marked. It would be well if the project could be organized through the Carolina Bird Club, to facilitate close cooperation between observers in the two states.—*37 University Court, Athens, Georgia.*

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[Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C., made six trips to different parts of the N. C. Blue Ridge Parkway between September 9 and October 20, 1951, but did not find any concentrations of migrating hawks.—T. L. Q.]

## **Announcement Of Annual Meeting Of The Carolina Bird Club**

The annual meeting of the Carolina Bird Club will be held in Raleigh, N. C. Saturday, March 15, 1952. The afternoon session, from 1:00 to 4:00 o'clock, will be in the new Riddick Laboratories on the North Carolina State College campus; the registration desk will open at 10:00 a.m. There will be a tea at the Governor's Mansion from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the United Church. The evening meeting will be at Meredith College, with Bert Harwell giving his Audubon Screen Tour program, "Canada North."

The Raleigh Bird Club is host to this Fifteenth Anniversary Meeting and cordially invites all members to attend. A letter giving details has been mailed to each member.

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## **Annual Meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Club To Be Held In Gatlinburg, Tennessee**

The Thirty-third Annual Meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Club will be held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, Friday and Saturday, April 25-26, 1952. Headquarters will be at the new Greystone Playhouse, adjacent to the Greystone Hotel in Gatlinburg.

Sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday. Because of the exceptional attractions of the area, morning sessions will not begin until 10:30 to permit short field trips each day. On Friday evening there will be a short program at the Playhouse, followed by an informal get-together. At 4:30 on Saturday afternoon there will be a demonstration of pottery making by Douglas Ferguson of the Pigeon Forge Pottery. This will be held at the Mountain View Hotel, and will be accompanied by a display of mountain crafts. The Annual Dinner will be held in the Greystone Playhouse at 8 o'clock Saturday evening. It will be served buffet style by the Greystone Hotel, well known in this region for its good food. This will be followed by entertainment and the President's address.

On Sunday there will be field trips to two general regions, one to the high-altitude spruce-fir forest in the vicinity of Newfound Gap and one to the low altitudes of Cade's Cove and the Giant Forest. On Friday evening, weather permitting, there will be a special trip to Newfound Gap and beyond for the chance of hearing the Saw-whet Owl's song. There will be a short field trip in the vicinity of Gatlinburg early Saturday morning.

The host organizations for this meeting are the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the Carolina Bird Club, and the Georgia Ornithological Society. The chairman of the local committee is Arthur Stupka, Gatlinburg.

The Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce will send, upon request, folders describing accommodations available, the Park itself, and camping facilities. All hotels are within easy walking distance of The Greystone Playhouse, as are many tourist courts.

This annual meeting of The Wilson Club at our own "backdoor" presents us with a marvelous opportunity. I am sure that all C. B. C. members who attend will have an extremely pleasant and profitable time.—T.L.Q.

# BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, *Department Editor*  
Eastover, South Carolina

So that we may gather all the interesting notes and ideas from every section of North and South Carolina in this Department, I have asked the following people to serve as Regional Reporters for the areas in which they live: Miss Sarah Lesley, Lake Junaluska, N. C.; Mr. J. W. E. Joyner, Rocky Mount, N. C.; Miss Ruth Gilreath, Travelers Rest, S. C.; Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Columbia, S. C.; Mrs. G. E. Charles, Aynor, S. C.; and Mrs. Francis Barrington, Charleston, S. C. We hope to add three more Reporters from North Carolina in time for the June issue.—A. R. F.

Wintering birds in the area around our home (which is in the center of South Carolina) have been most conspicuous by their absence! Not ever do I remember having so few of the birds whose appearance in our yards usually makes bird feeding during the winter months so fascinating. We've seen no Fox Sparrows, not even a single Brown Creeper, and only one or two flocks of Cedar Waxwings. Nor has the Baltimore Oriole yet arrived to remain until spring as a constant visitor to our window feeder. We have one Hermit Thrush that is very much at home on the feeder, and eats milk-soaked bread, suet, and apple. Occasionally, the White-breasted Nuthatches and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet visit the suet, mostly in spells of very cold weather. Pine Warblers about the feeders, Goldfinches in the sweet gum trees, and the White-throated Sparrows are the most abundant species. There are five pairs of Cardinals, one pair each of Brown Thrashers, Tufted Titmice, Towhees, and Carolina Wrens, three Chickadees and three Downy Woodpeckers, which are continually chasing each other, and the pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. We have about the normal number of Chipping, Field, and Song Sparrows. A flock of Juncos comes to the spring at the bottom of the hill behind our house for water, but I have yet to see them under the feeders. We would like to know if this scarcity of migratory birds exists in other sections. If any of you have any comments, I'd like to have them.

Quite the most satisfactory suet feeder I have had is the one I put out last week near my new bird bath. From the "Ten-cent Store" I got two wire soap dishes, which Billy wired together at one end. I put in a big lump of suet and fastened the other end with a long piece of wire, which was also used to hang the feeder from a limb. This seems to be "varment proof," and is popular with the Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, and Kinglets. Try this, if you are bothered by having your suet stolen.

Mrs. G. E. Charles writes that about her home at Aynor, Chipping Sparrows, Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows are the most abundant species. Pine Warblers and Goldfinches come next in line, the latter being attracted to a large sweet-gum tree that has not yet shed its burrs. Her most common shelf feeders are the Chickadees, Titmice, and Pine Warblers, a few Jays, a few Carolina Wrens and Myrtle Warblers and Downy Woodpeckers, and an occasional Brown Creeper. She reports using on this feeding shelf cracked hickory nuts, chicken feed, bread crumbs, and table scraps. She has very few Cardinals, and only seldom does one come to her bath or feeder. This seems odd to me, for at our home there are Cardinals everywhere. Mrs. Charles notes the absence of a House Wren that spent last winter about her back door. She writes, "I had never been personally acquainted with one before. It was not very shy. The most interesting of its habits was

how it could run and fly at the same time. Many times I came down the steps to see it dart across into the shrubbery or under the pump-house with its feet on the ground and its wings in the air!" (Do you call this "skittering"?) On December 5, 6, and 7, she saw a female Ring-necked Pheasant in the nearby woods. On the 11th, her son-in-law saw a male Pheasant in the same area.

Mr. J. W. E. Joyner, Rocky Mount, makes the following suggestions:

Now's the time to clean out last year's bird boxes. Sprinkle a little insect powder inside, or spray with DDT, and leave the box open for a few days to air and dry out.

If you want your bird boxes to be used, place them in the open. Birds nest in these man-made boxes as substitutes for the hollow stubs and trunks of dead trees—trees that would be without foliage or dense shade.

To keep your exposed feeding stations from gumming up after rains, substitute a wire-bottomed tray for the customary board. This tray can be made of hardwood cloth, which will permit the hulls of sunflower seeds to fall through. For small grains and crumbs, place a patch of screen wire in the center. Some food will be scratched off for the sparrows below, but the tray will usually be clean when you go to replenish it.

What foods do you find most birds prefer? One reader places them in this order: peanut butter, broken peanuts, sunflower seeds, cake and bread crumbs, suet, baby-chick scratch feed, and finally the commercially packed "wild-bird" food. Peanut products come nearest being the one food acceptable to the largest number of birds, being relished by the warblers, sparrows, woodpeckers, nuthatches, creepers, finches, jays and thrushes—as a matter of fact, practically all the birds you might hope to attract to your feeders, with the exception of Hummingbirds. They, of course, will come only to a concoction of sweetened water.

D. L. Wray writes from Raleigh to tell of a pair of House Wrens having raised a brood in a nest built in the same box and on top of a Bluebird's nest. Last spring in my sister's yard, after the Bluebird's eggs were laid the female was killed. After about a week the male found a new mate, and another nest was built and more eggs laid right on top of the others. This brood hatched, and I have the double nest, with the eggs in between them, in my collection of nests! Dr. Wray also tells of a Carolina Wren's nest built in a small hollow in the soil under a cactus planted in a large tub. Wrens can choose the oddest places!

The following letter reinforces the philosophy behind the establishment of our "Backyard Birding" Department. If all local groups act on this suggestion, and send in accounts of the results to the editors, we shall indeed gather a wealth of valuable information.

3 Davie Circle  
Chapel Hill, N. C.  
January 13, 1952

Mrs. Matt L. Thompson  
Dogwood Drive  
Chapel Hill, N. C.  
Dear Mrs. Thompson:

From my experience in the country between your place and Morgan's Creek, I would say that one could work hard in that territory and never see a fraction of the birds, kinds or individuals, that can be seen with comfort and ease at your feeding station. So it occurred to me that a good form of winter bird census would be collaboration among operators of feeding stations, of which there are so many in this vicinity. Thus age and rheumatics would be no bar and the weather could not interfere. Also, the scheme would be novel and might yield some interesting results.

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ W. L. McAtee

Mrs. Matt L. Thompson of Chapel Hill and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson of Charlotte both report large numbers of Purple Finches

and Pine Siskins at their feeders this winter. Mrs. Clarkson had a Bewick's Wren on January 12, 1952.

Miss Sarah Lesley wrote us last summer of the large number of ducks that were noted on Lake Junaluska during the last cold weather in April. About 5,000 were seen, the majority of which were Blue-winged Teal, with some Mallards, Scaup, and Canvas-backs among them. We hope Miss Lesley will watch for them again this spring, and let us have another report.

Now that you all see what we want for this Department, please send your items of interest to the Regional Reporter in your section

of each state, or directly to me at Eastover, South Carolina. Watch, too, for incidents that are out of the ordinary behavior patterns of our well-known birds, and tell us about them. I think that one of the funniest things I ever saw took place on our window feeder about two winters ago. A female Cardinal had just taken a bill full of milk-soaked bread from the saucer when an immature White-throated Sparrow lighted by her side and opened her bill to be fed. Immediately, the Cardinal put the food in the sparrow's mouth! They both looked so startled that I burst out laughing and scared them away. I often wish I had kept quiet. Maybe they would have done it again!—*Eastover, S. C., January 14, 1952.*

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### Spring Migration Of Indigo Buntings And Tanagers

We have received the following letter from Mr. Aaron M. Bagg, chairman of the national membership committee of the American Ornithologists' Union. We commend it to you and hope that you may be able to help Mr. Bagg in his research problem, as well as add to our knowledge of Carolina bird life. Your observations for this and past seasons may be sent directly to him.—T. L. Quay.

I have an ornithological problem on which you may be able to provide answers of considerable value. Three of us, who are interested in weather's relation to spring migration, are making a study of the April occurrences, from Long Island (N. Y.) to Nova Scotia, of Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers and Summer Tanagers. (The first two usually reach Mass. during the first 10 days of May; the Summer Tanager's occurrence is entirely extralimital in New England).

We believe that we have a general idea as to the meteorological conditions which bring Indigo Buntings and Tanagers to coastal New England at, and subsequent to, mid-April. That is, coastal storms.

But we are anxious to determine approximately *where* in the South there might originate, normally, a northeastward flight of Indigo Buntings and Tanagers (Scarlet and Summer) during the second week of April.

Any information you can give to us on this will be sincerely appreciated. I guessed that the Buntings and Tanagers might be in Virginia and the Carolinas by the second week in April. This may be wrong. Where are their more precocious migrants at that time?—AARON M. BAGG, 72 Fairfield Avenue, Holyoke, Mass., Jan. 12, 1952.

# AMONG OUR MEMBERS

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN, *Department Editor*  
3320 White Oak Road, Raleigh, N. C.

Each meeting of the Carolina Bird Club proves anew how interested the members are in each other's birding and conservation activities, and in what the local clubs are doing. In this department we hope to keep in touch with all our members, so please send in items of interest about yourselves and others. All local club secretaries are invited to send us, by April 15, summary accounts of each club's winter and spring meetings and field trips, for publication in the June 1 issue. The list of local clubs and their officers is arranged on the back page of this issue. Please let us know if there are errors.—C. H. G.

NORMAN CHAMBERLAIN of Matthews, N. C., has been appointed Student Assistant at the Audubon Nature Camp at Hog Island, Maine, for the 1952 session. Congratulations, Norman. It is a wonderful place to spend a summer. And congratulations, Audubon, in getting Norman, who is an enthusiastic, outstanding, and dependable naturalist.

MARIEL GARY and GARNETTE MYERS, of the HENDERSON BIRD CLUB, went to Mattamuskeet in November and acquired a list of 57 species. At the Raleigh Civic Music the other night, we sat near MRS. A. W. BACHMAN, S-T of the Henderson Club, who on behalf of the Club extended again an invitation to the Raleigh and other C. B. C. members to join them in a "Warbler Hunt Breakfast" in April or May. Last year on May 5 the Henderson group recorded 27 species of Warblers, including Tennessee and other rare ones.

The three sisters FALBO, CARROLL, and ANNIE B. JOHNSON, of Marion, S. C., learned about and joined the C. B. C. just in time to make the Bull's Island trip. Miss Falbo Johnson, formerly of Washington, D. C., and retired editor of the *Journal of Agricultural Research* recently returned from a seven months' world tour. She took the tramps at Bull's Island in stride, even the 2-mile walk to the beach in the dark.

FARIDA WILEY, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and a teacher of Botany at the Audubon Nature Camp, Maine (where our own Margaret Wall is in charge of Nature Activities) has edited a book "John Burroughs' America," which is a fine selection of his best writings. Long a Burroughs fan, I met many old favorites in this book. Francis Lee Jaques, also connected with the Museum (an artist of 11 of the most beautiful paintings in Sprunt and Chamberlain's *South Carolina Bird Life*) has done the black and white illustrations. It is a book we should like to see in every school library and on the shelves of all bird and outdoor people. Published by Devin-Adair, New York, \$4.00.

BEA POTTER, President of the MECKLENBURG AUDUBON CLUB, is back from California where, among other delights, she added many new species to her ever-growing "life-list." And here's a good idea of Bea's to pass along. As a memorial to her mother and sister, she has presented *South Carolina Bird Life* and Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds to her local club.

MARGARET WATSON, formerly teacher at the North Carolina State School for the Blind (see *Nature Magazine*, "Nature By Sound and Touch," Nov., 1949) has been teaching in Japan for the past year and a half. She has had many interesting adventures and taken well over a thousand colored

pictures. Last year one of her fellow teachers had a car and they traveled about the country, spending Christmas at Shiga, the "Japanese Alps." Travel part way was by "weasel" (jeep with tractor tread). We'll date Margaret for a long illustrated talk at one of our C. B. C. meetings upon her return.

DR. RUBY GREEN SMITH, of Ithaca, N. Y., founder of the Cayuga Bird Club in 1912 (with such outstanding charter members as Arthur and Elsa Allen, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, Dr. James Needham, the two Comstocks, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and others) and founder also of the Chautauqua Bird and Tree Club (of which I was a charter member) is editing a book *The Comstocks of Cornell*. Anna Botsford Comstock, known as "the mother of the nature study movement" did the first draft before her death.

FLORENCE WEAVER gave a paper before the National Association of Biology Teachers at the AAAS meetings held in Philadelphia December 26-31. Subject: "Using the Group Unit Method Democratically." It was so well received that Editor Richard Westwood of *Nature Magazine* is using it in an early number. DR. RICHARD WEAVER, retiring president of the NABT, presided over several of the joint sessions of the three science teaching societies and directed a one-day work conference on conservation education for biology teachers. He also showed the film *Tar Heel Family*.

MRS. MARY SHELBOURNE MC LAURIN, of Washington, N. C., has, "ducks, geese, swans, grebes and coots in my front yard." Her front yard is really the Pamlico River, 75 feet from the house. A big plate glass window in the living room allows her to see all that is going on. She states that apparently hunters shoot Pied-billed Grebes and then just let them wash up on the shore.

ARCH and CATHERINE SHAFESBURY spent a few days of the holi-

day season birding from Southport to Charleston. Their list was not outstanding, but "the coast is always interesting and rewarding."

JACK DERMID, managing editor of *Wildlife In North Carolina*, spent the second week of February in Florida, studying and photographing especially the distinctive bird life of the Everglades National Park.

We welcome the addition of the newly organized BLUE RIDGE BIRD CLUB of Hendersonville, N. C., to our list of affiliated local clubs. MR. FRANK LIPP, founder and president, is proprietor of the "Bird Haven Lodges" at Hendersonville. Mr. Lipp has been a student of nature since his childhood days in Switzerland. He writes weekly "Nature Lessons" in the Hendersonville *Times-News*, and heartily recommends the method as unsurpassed for getting new club members. One of the first projects of the new club was the establishment of Hendersonville as a bird sanctuary, which became a reality when signs designating the City as such were placed at the City limits. In the photograph are shown Mrs. Harvey A. Burgess, Secretary; Rex L. Bird, District Biologist of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission; Frank Lipp, President (kneeling); Mrs. W. W. Carpenter, Chairman of the Hendersonville Garden Club; and Major A. V. Edwards.—(Photo by Loveland Studio, courtesy Hendersonville *Times-News*.)



DR. F. S. BARKALOW, JR., Head of Zoology at State College, Raleigh, spent two months last summer in Alaska with the Air Force Research Laboratory studying mammals and other wildlife. He also made a study of the history of Alaska, its native peoples, their cultures and resources; he took numerous, excellent kodachromes and has developed a mighty interesting lecture. I've heard it once

and am going again at the first opportunity.

Ove Jensen, of Maple City, Michigan (formerly of Chapel Hill) is heading up the Glen Lake Improvement Association. Glen Lake is 19 feet higher than Lake Michigan and weirs are being established in Glen Lake's outlet into Michigan in an effort to keep lamprey eels out of beautiful Glen, and consequent damage to its good fishing.

### In This Issue

DR. WILLIAM P. VANESELTINE is a bacteriologist, but bird study is his chief hobby and relaxation. He began keeping bird records as a six-year-old child in Geneva, N. Y., and has been at it ever since. While studying for his Ph.D. at Cornell, he kept in close touch with the Laboratory of Ornithology there. For the past three years Dr. VanEseltine was Associate Professor of Bacteriology at Clemson College. On February 1, 1952, he assumed a new position with more research opportunity at the University of Georgia.

DR. B. W. WELLS is Professor of Botany at N. C. State College.

He is well known for his many studies and scientific papers on coastal plain plant ecology and for his excellent book *The Natural Gardens of North Carolina*. Dr. and Mrs. Wells have a summer home in Southport and we are expecting them on the Spring Field Trip.

MR. ROD AMUNDSON is a native Nebraskan, and a graduate of Iowa State College in wildlife conservation and journalism. He came to North Carolina in the spring of 1948 to develop the Wildlife Commission's new Education Division. In this endeavor he has achieved marked success.

Wm. P. VanEseltine



Rod Amundson



## BOOKS

*A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi.* Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. xxi + 659 pp.; illus. with line drawings by George M. Sutton. \$5.00. Oxford University Press, New York. 1951.

Here is America's first Baedeker for bird watchers. It fills the great need for an effective guide to where and how to find the characteristic birds of any region through which one may be traveling. With this book in hand, one may now plan his trips to include whatever ornithological attractions desired. The section on South Carolina was written entirely by Alexander Sprunt, Jr. Contributors to the North Carolina account were Edna Appleberry, T. D. Burleigh, Willie G. Caheon, B. R. Chamberlain, Elizabeth Barnhill Clarkson, Lockhart Gaddy, W. L. Hamnett, T. L. Quay, Ben F. Royal, Philips Russell, James Stephens, H. M. Stevenson, P. W. Sturm, and D. L. Wray. This book will go through many revisions and Dr. Pettingill requests constructive suggestions and additions from everyone. Here is another way in which members of the Carolina Bird Club can work together in adding to our knowledge of Carolina bird life.—T. L. Q.

*American Wildlife and Plants.* A. C. Martin, H. S. Zim, and A. L. Nelson. 500 pp. \$7.50. McGraw-Hill, N. Y. 1951.

Subtitled "A guide to wildlife food habits: the use of trees, shrubs, weeds, and herbs by birds and mammals of the United States," this highly readable book will prove invaluable to a wide range of people. It was prepared under the direction of the Fish and Wildlife Service and contains the sifted research on wildlife food habits in the United States for the past 65 years. All the main groups and most of the species of birds are discussed and figured, and their natural foods listed in order of preference by seasons and regions. In the last 200 pages there is a reverse treatment, with lists of the kinds of birds feeding on each of over 300 species of food plants.

It is difficult to underestimate the usefulness of this handy reference. It will help you to find and understand birds in the field and also to attract birds to your home sanctuary.—T. L. Q.

*Distributions and Populations of Summer Birds in Southwestern Georgia.* Occasional Publication No. 3, Georgia Ornithological Society. Robert A. Norris. 67 pp.; illus. with 11 distribution maps and 11 habitat photographs. \$1.25. University of Georgia Press, Athens. October, 1951.

This is the first in a planned series of regional studies undertaken by graduate students at the University of Georgia as thesis problems and published by the Georgia Ornithological Society. Mr. Norris is now at the University of California where he is a candidate for the Ph.D. degree under Dr. Alden H. Miller.

Norris' publication should be of more than local interest; since, in addition to the conventional annotated list, the booklet contains material on the general ecology of the little known southwestern Upper Coastal Plain, illustrations of all the major vegetation types of the region, a section summarizing and analyzing the overall bird distributional patterns, eleven distribution maps, and an account of population studies which represent a start, at least, toward the quantitative approach in regional bird study. Also included is a frontispiece of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker reproduced from an original drawing by Richard A. Parks, a very promising young Georgia artist. The southwestern Georgia region is of special interest because it lies astride the Appalachian-Chattahoochee invasion route by which many northern land birds have extended their breeding ranges to, or almost to, the Gulf coast. The topography and limestone

formations of the region have resulted in many ponds and swamps attractive to water birds, many species of which are characteristically southern. The summer avifauna is, therefore, diverse and interesting.—*Eugene P. Odum, University of Georgia, Athens, Oct. 12, 1951.*  
[Several local clubs here in the Carolinas are planning regional studies and annotated lists. These and other groups could well use this booklet as a model.—T. L. Q.]

*North With The Spring.* Edwin Way Teale. 388 pp., illus. with photographs by the author. \$5.00. Dodd, Mead, and Co., N. Y. 1951.

Those members of the Carolina Bird Club who were on the field trip to Beaufort when Edwin Way Teale accompanied us will be pleased to see this new book for which he was collecting data on that trip. He spent considerable time in western Carolina with Arthur Stupka, and on the coast with Edna Appleberry and visited others in various parts of the state. On his stop in Chapel Hill he talked to the Bird Club. This delightful book therefore includes a lot of information on the warbler migration near Asheville, on the "heath slicks" and "balds" of the Smokies, the venus'-flytrap, the eel migrations on the coast and the herb collecting in the Blue Ridge. All of these North Carolina accounts added to those taken from 17,000 miles of travel make this one of the most interesting and important books on natural history which has been published in a long time.—RICHARD L. WEAVER.

*Audubon Water Bird Guide.* Richard H. Pough. 352 pp.; 485 color illustrations by Don Eckelberry and 138 in black and white by Earl L. Poole. \$3.50. Doubleday and Co., Garden City, N. Y. 1951.

Many of us have been waiting for this second volume which completes the fine pictorial and descriptive coverage of all the North American birds by Richard Pough and Don Eckelberry. It is now available and covers the water, game, and large land birds. In this and the previous volume on land birds (*Audubon Bird Guide*) will be found more life history information and more birds pictured in color than in any of the other popular guides.—RICHARD L. WEAVER.

*Wildlife In Color.* Roger Tory Peterson. 191 pp. \$3.00. Houghton Mifflin Co., N. Y. 1951.

Friends and acquaintances of Roger Tory Peterson will appreciate this most recent of his contributions to natural history. It was sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and contains 450 pictures in color originally issued as wildlife stamps. These have been arranged by wildlife communities and integrated with the text so that all the major habitats of the country are illustrated, making a fine cross section of outdoor America. The pictures reproduced remarkably well.—RICHARD L. WEAVER.

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A copy of *The Value of North Carolina's Game and Fish*—economic, recreational, aesthetic—by Howard J. Stains and F. S. Barkalow, Jr., was recently mailed to every member of the C. B. C. This was done through the courtesy of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and at the request of your editor. Harry Davis spent an extra Sunday afternoon running them through the addressograph. Many will find their innermost feelings about the out-of-doors well expressed in the introductory pages. If you care to send a word of appreciation, please do so to Colonel Clyde P. Patton, Executive Director, N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh.—T. L. Q.

## The Bull's Island-Mt. Pleasant Field Trip

About 60 members of the C. B. C. attended the midwinter Field Trip to Bull's Island and Mt. Pleasant, S. C., on January 25-27, 1952. Fourteen members spent Friday night and Saturday on the island, and 20 more went over for the day Saturday. The others remained on the mainland. The total count of 98 species was 25 short of the Charleston Christmas Census of December 28, 1951. Eleven of the species recorded this time, however, were not seen on the Christmas Census: Duck Hawk, Wilson's Plover, Laughing Gull, Common Tern, Black Skimmer, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Eastern Tree Sparrow (one bird) and Fox Sparrow.

The Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) constitutes the first substantiated sight record for this species in South Carolina (see *South Carolina Bird Life*, page 7). It was observed at close range with good binoculars by Mary Guy, Buren Whitener, and the writer. It had the typical red-brown cap, dark breast spot, light wing bars, and lighter lower mandible. I had many close-up views of Tree Sparrows a year ago at the window feeding station of my sister-in-law at Ithaca, N. Y.

The excursion was a wonderful success from every point of view, and we are only sorry that unavoidable circumstances kept away so many of those who had originally planned on going.—Charlotte Hilton Green.

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## CHRISTMAS CENSUS, 1951

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

There was no marked departure from last year's count. A few more observers recorded almost the identical number of species in slightly larger overall numbers. The 23 reports received show a total count for the Carolinas of 176 species and over 108,000 individuals. Observers, numbering 237, were divided into 94 parties. Coverage ranged from Pea Island, on the upper N. C. coast, to the Great Smokies, some 450 miles west, and from near the Virginia state line to Aiken, S. C., 275 miles to the south. For most groups, the weather was raw and wet for at least part of the day. The most unusual find was Evening Grosbeaks in the Smoky Mountains (see General Field Notes). Mrs. Appleberry's European Wigeon and Purple Sandpipers were back at Wilmington. Also at Wilmington, a Painted Bunting, suspected for some years to winter, was finally found. At the Pea Island Refuge an immature Golden Eagle, first noted early in Dec., was studied at close range. Two Sora Rails turned up at Mattamuskeet, and at Greensboro an albino Killdeer was seen. At Raleigh, Charlotte Green watched two Redpolls in her yard for two hours. They were feeding in a sweet gum tree and also among weeds on the ground, in company with a large flock of Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and Goldfinches. Mrs. Green saw one Redpoll again on Jan. 1, 1952, in the same place, feeding on alder catkins.

Twenty-three other species, while not so rare, were likewise recorded at but one locality. At *Pea Island*: Snow Goose—200, Avocet—4; *Wilmington*: Red-throated Loon—21, Brown Pelican—2, Old Squaw—1, Piping Plover—6, Laughing Gull—7, Common Tern—1, Royal Tern—1, Black Skimmer—311, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—5, Seaside Sparrow—17; *Charleston*: Blue-winged Teal—13, Florida Gallinule—1, Ruddy Turnstone—5, Willet—15, Marbled Godwit—3, White-eyed Vireo—2; *Raleigh*: Bewick's Wren—2; *Chapel Hill*: Baltimore Oriole—2; *Great Smokies*: Ruffed Grouse—11, Raven—5, Red Crossbill—1.

In order to save space, the 30 single-locality species are not listed in the table below. The table is arranged in approximate order of elevation from coast to mountains.

Of the 176 species counted, none was reported from all census points. The coastal counts provided 162 species. The central areas added only 10 species not seen on the coast, and the two counts from the high mountains added 4 species not found elsewhere.

Such similar species as the Greater and Lesser Scaup Ducks are listed as Scaup Duck (Sp.). The same treatment is given Horned Larks, Chickadees, Towhees and Juncos. In areas where both birds commonly occur, credit is given in the count for both.

#### INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. (essentially same area as in last 21 years, including Stroud's lowgrounds, neighboring ponds and farms, and University campus, plus several feeding stations; pine woods 10%, oak-hickory woods 20%, lowland thickets and open farmlands 50%, marsh and lake shores 20%).—Dec. 23; 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 20 to 52 degrees; calm; water open. Sixteen observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 52 (46 on foot, 6 in car); total party-miles 75 (25 on foot, 50 by car). Roy Brown, Coit Coker, Mrs. Oscar Hamilton, Joe Jones (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Khaine, W. L. McAtee, Mrs. Allan Northend, Mark T. Orr, Mrs. W. D. Patterson, Emily Pollard, Reem Pollard, Phillips Russell, Bobby Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Thompson.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (area same as in last 9 years, substituting Morrison estate and Oaklawn cemetery for Freedom Park; pine, gum, cedar, popular woods 40%, cleared farmlands 45%, hedgerows 10%, ponds 5%).—Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; cloudy, rain in afternoon; temp. 40 to 48 degrees; wind negligible. Sixteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 34; total party-miles 145. Dan Burroughs, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Dick Crutchfield, H. L. Cushman, Joe Davenport, Clarkson Jones, Jane Little, Stephen Mahaley, Jr., Brem Mayer, Mrs. George C. Potter, William Smith, Robert Joel Todd, John Yandle. (Mecklenburg Audubon Club).

ELKIN, N. C. (seven mile radius, centering in Elkin, including golf course, farms and airport; 55% cultivated farmland and pastures; 45% mixed timberlands, mostly pine, and Yadkin River).—Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; overcast, rain in afternoon; temp. 30 to 44 degrees; no wind; lakes mostly frozen. Two observers, 2 parties. Total party-hours 16; total party-miles 44 (8 on foot, 36 by car). Linville Hendren, E. M. Hodel (compiler).

GREAT SMOKEY MT. NAT. PARK, Tenn.-N. C.—(7½ mile radius, centering on Bull Head of Mt. Leconte; towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tenn; altitude 1,200 to 6,593 ft.; spruce-fir forest 35%, deciduous forests 30%, farmland and abandoned fields 25%, towns 10%).—Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; overcast to cloudy; temp. 45 to 70 degrees; wind 5-25 m.p.h. snow melting at high altitudes, ground bare in lowlands. Forty observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 80 (66 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 205 (70 on foot, 135 by car). Jon Beasley, Rolf Boonninghausen, Mary Chiles, Brockway Crouch, Richard Culver, Howard Davenport, Hugh and Ronny Davis, Jack A. Ellis, Robert Hornsby, Jimmy and Philip Huff, Anders, Eunice, and Harriet Hustvedt, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Johnson, Hugh Finley LaRue, Richard Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leonard, Henry W. Lix, Richard A. Lorenz, Dorothy McLean, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Monroe, Elise Morrell, Carl Newman, Jr., S. A. Ogden, J. B. Owen, Robert Scott, Royal E. Shanks, Arthur Stupka (compiler), Gorhard Tachmann, Charles and Louise Thompson, Clyde Trentham, Dietrich Wilde, Ralph G. Williams, and William Yambert.

GREENSBORO, N. C. (area same as in 1950; deciduous and pine woods 25%, open fields 15%, marsh and wooded swamps 10%, lawns and parks 10%).—Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., overcast; temp. 30 to 47 degrees; wind SW, 0-6 m.p.h. Twenty-nine observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 85, total party-miles 238 (62 on foot, 176 by car) John Carr, Mrs. W. C. Carr, Inez Coldwell, Evelyn Cole, Mrs. Floyd Hugh Craft, William Craft, Larry Crawford, James Furr, C. R. Lamb, Ann Locke, James Mattocks, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Medford, C. H. McCall, John A. McLeod, Jr. (compiler), Ethel McNairy, Ida Mitchell, Oscar H. Paris, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Hollis Rogers, Etta Schiffman, Edith Settan, George A. Smith, Thomas E. Street, Hal H. Strickland, Jr., Wesley Taylor, Annabel Thompson, Margaret Wall.

HENDERSON, N. C. (area adjacent to town, open fields 50%, meadowland 20%, oak and pine woods 15%, brambles 5%, ponds 10%).—Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy with light winds; heavy frost in lowlands, temp. 18 to 30 degrees. Three observers in one party. Total hours 7 (4 on foot, 3 in car); total miles 36 (6 on foot, 30 in car). Mrs. A. W. Bachman, Mariel Gary (compiler), Garnette Myers.

HIGH POINT, N. C. (same area as last year).—Dec. 26; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Rain, clearing in p.m.; no wind. Twelve observers in 3 parties. J. W. Furr, Mrs. C. C. Haworth, Mrs. J. F. Hayden, Mrs. Minta Hughes, Mrs. Worth Ivey (compiler), Mrs. C. B. Mattocks, Mrs. James Mattocks, Miss Genevieve Moore, Mrs. Edith Sherrod, Mrs. John Siceloff, Bess Siceloff, Mary Alice Siceloff. (Catesby Bird Club).

LENOIR, N. C. (center of town to 3 miles NW, 1½ miles east, 5 miles SE, town and suburbs 75%, pastures and open farmlands 20%, woodlands 5%).—Dec. 29, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; cloudy and cold before noon, raining afternoon; temp. 32-34 F.; ground bare. Fourteen observers in 6 parties. Total hours 11; total miles 5. Mrs. Fred May (compiler), Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer, Margaret Harper, Cary Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Lovin, Mr. Raymond McCorkle, Fred May, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Parks, James Taylor.

MATTAMUSKEET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, NEW HOLLAND, N. C. (same area as in 1940 and subsequent counts. Refuge and adjacent woods and fields, including public road across lake; open water 40%, marsh 30%, fields and thickets 20%, pine and cypress woods 10%).—Dec. 28; 6:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; clear, temp. 29 to 54 degrees; slight N wind; ground bare. Four observers, mostly together; Total hours 11; total miles 48 (4 by foot, 44 by car). W. G. Cahoon (Refuge Manager), V. T. Lapham (Asst. Mgr.), Ray Evans, R. L. Wolff (compiler).

MT. OLIVE, N. C. same area as last year. Open fields 50%, pine woods 10%, mixed pine and deciduous woods 35%, ponds 5%).—Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast morning, clear afternoon; temp. 50 to 60 degrees; wind S, 3-5 m.p.h. Two observers in two parties. Total party-hours 15, total party-miles 35 (10 on foot, 25 by car). Bob Holmes (compiler), R. P. Holmes.

PEA ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, DARE CO., N. C. (area same as past several years; open water 50%, salt marsh, ponds and shore 30%, sand dunes, mostly grass covered 20%)—Dec. 27, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Icy 35 m.p.h. northeaster." Four observers in 1 party. Coverage mostly by truck. Jack Harvin, Bob Kost, N. B. McCulloch, Jr. (compiler), L. B. Turner (Refuge Manager).

RALEIGH, N. C. (practically same area as in previous years; lakes and small ponds 25%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 40%, deciduous woodland 20%, open fields 15%).—Dec. 22; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partially cloudy most of day; wind 10 to 15 m.p.h.; temp. 34 to 45 degrees; ground bare, water open. Nine observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 31 (27 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles 57 (27 on foot, 30 by car). Mrs. C. H. Green, James F. Greene, W. L. Hamnett, J. W. Johnson, Robert Overing, Virginia Pickelle, E. W. Winkler, Johnny Winkler, D. L. Wray (compiler), Mrs. D. L. Wray.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C. (same area as last year).—Jan. 1, 1952; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy to clearing with no wind; temp. 55 to 72 degrees. Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8, on foot; total party-miles 90 (85 by car, 5 on foot). M. H. Barney, C. D. Benhow, J. W. E. Joyner, Rev. Gray Temple (compiler).

STATESVILLE, N. C. (same locality as previous count except in a North Northeast direction instead of West and East; town and suburbs 20%, mixed woodlands 30%, open farmlands 45%, stream banks and marsh 1%, pine woods 4%).—Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., clear; temp. 27 to 45 degrees; wind NE, 25 m.p.h. Ground partly frozen and muddy. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 13 (8 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles 90 (10 on foot, 80 by car). J. C. Crawford, Jane Eliason, Nancy Eliason, John H. Gray, III, Mary Jean Grose, Sarah M. Nooe (compiler), W. G. Templeton.

WILMINGTON, N. C. (same area as last year; mixed pine and deciduous woodland 60%, freshwater pond and river 15%, beach and salt marsh 20%, pasture 5).—Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; misty in early morning, clearing later; temp. 29 to 45 degrees; wind N,

13-24 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Fourteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 51 (23 on foot, 26 by car, 2 by boat); total party-miles 195 (30 on foot, 164 by car, 1 by boat). Cecil Appleberry, Edna Appleberry (compiler), Mary Baker, Clifford Comeau, Bob Holmes, Polly Mebane, Claude McAllister, Nadine Murray, Harold Olsen, Oscar Paris, Lois Stroud, Dr. William D. Stroud, Julia Theebald, Mary Urieb.

WINDOM, N. C. (same territory as last year with 4 miles of village added).—Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 30 to 45 degrees; no wind; ground bare. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16 (8 by car, 8 on foot); total party-miles 35 (15 on foot, 20 by car). Wiley Blevins, Paul Hughes, James Hutchins (compiler), Wade Styles.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (area same as last year). Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 30 to 46 degrees; wind W, 10-15 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 41 (37 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles 125 (35 on foot, 90 by car). William Campbell, Wayne Irvin, H. M. Magie, Dr. Alfred Mordecai, Robert Perkins, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Simpson, James L. Stephenson, R. N. White, R. N. Witherington (compiler), Mrs. W. R. Wyatt.

AIKEN, S. C. (area essentially the same as last year. Mixed pine and hardwood forests 35%, burned-out woods 15%, town suburbs 20%, pasture and plowed fields 15%, swampy woodlands and small fresh water ponds 15%).—Dec. 23; dawn to 6:00 p.m. Clear most of day; temp. 26 to 61 degrees; wind E, less than 2 m.p.h. One observer. Total hours 11; total miles 14, on foot. William Post, Jr.

CHARLESTON, S. C. (area same as in previous years).—Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. 32 to 55 degrees; wind 25-35 m.p.h. Twenty observers in 5 parties. R. M. Barnet, Jr., R. D. Edwards, H. W. Freeman, Julian Harrison, Maj. I. S. H. Metcalf, I. H. Metcalf, Joseph Moffett, James Mosiman, Louis Parker, John Quinby, George Rabb, W. C. Rose, N. H. Seebeck, Jr. (compiler), Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Alexander Sprunt, IV, Thomas Uzzell, Ellison Williams; and on Bulls Island, the Misses Hallock, Yates, and Grostein.

COLUMBIA, S. C. ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius centering on the State House, including suburban areas, Forest Lake and Horseshoe Lake; deciduous river swamp 35%, pine woods 24%, open fields 26%, lake and river shore 10%, urban 5%).—Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. clear; temp. 35 to 50 degrees; wind NE, 8-10 m.p.h. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 41 (26 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles 301 (35 on foot, 266 by car). Gilbert Bristow (compiler), James Fowles, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, David Monteith, Jr., Hardy Oliver, Mrs. Clyde Sisson.

EASTOVER, S. C. (same area as last year).—Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy to clearing; temp. 75 degrees; wind SE, 5-8 m.p.h. One observer, Mrs. W. H. Faver.

SPARTANBURG, S. C. (same area as last year, excluding Pierce's pond).—Dec. 23; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 28 to 50 degrees; calm; ground frozen early in day; very wet. Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 22 (19 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles 40 (12 on foot, 28 by car). Flora Beymer, Gabriel Cannon, Louisa Carlisle, Harold Correll, Ruth Crick, Margaret Hammond, Tucker McCravy, R. E. Rupp, Dr. and Mrs. John Watkins.

GREENVILLE, S. C. ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius from Union Bleachery. Pine and deciduous woods 65%, open fields and border thickets 30%, reservoirs and fresh water ponds 5%).—Dec. 22; 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Fair; temp. 34 to 50 degrees; wind WNW, 0-10 m.p.h. Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 21; total party-miles 108 (90 by car, 18 on foot). Mrs. E. C. Crumpton, Rosa Lee Hart, P. M. Jenness (compiler), May W. Puett, Sterling L. Smith, D. A. and E. S. Tillinghast.

		Great Smokies
	Wimberly	
	Lenoir	
	Elkton	
	Winston-Salem	
	Greenville	
	Spartanburg	
	Charlotte	
	Statesville	
	High Point	
	Greensboro	
	Chapel Hill	
	Aiken	
	Columbia	
	Eastover	
	Raleigh	
	Henderson	
	McDowell	
	Rocky Mount	
	Charleston	
	Mattamuskeet	
	Wilmington	
	Pea Island	
Common Loon	43	3
Horned Grebe	52	42
Pied-billed Grebe	8	12
Gannet	50	166
Cormorant	6	9
Great Blue Heron	1	21
American Egret	10	13
Snowy Egret	13	16
Louisiana Heron	1	22
Little Blue Heron	16	4
Black-cr. N. Heron	1	2
Whistling Swan	125	(a)
Canada Goose	74	(c)
Mallard	27	48
Black Duck	300	10
Gadwall	600	600
Baldpate	127	3
Pintail	150	46
Green-winged Teal	600	90
Shoveller	130	3
Wood Duck	19	3
Redhead	10	2
Ring-necked Duck	40	36
Canvas-back	309	2
Scaup Duck (Sp.)	25	71
American Golden-eye	6	1
Buff-bellied Puffin	59	47
White-winged Scoter	1	1
American Scoter	11	6
Ruddy Duck	150	350
Hooded Merganser	50	4
American Merganser	30	150
Red-br. Merganser	6	26
Turkey Vulture	5	22
Black Vulture	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2



Great Smokies	Winfeston-Salem	Elk City	Lemont	Windham
Barred Owl	1	1	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	2	2
Flicker	26	24	10	2
Pileated Woodpecker	8	13	16	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	4	4	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	12	20	1
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	4	4	4	1
Hairy Woodpecker	33	25	25	9
Downy Woodpecker	7	11	11	1
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	2	4	4	1
Phoebe	5	4	4	1
Horned Lark (subsp.)	2	11	11	1
Tree Swallow	2	6	6	1
Blue Jay	14	14	14	1
Crow	36	25	26	1
Fish Crow	14	14	14	1
Chickadee (Sp.)	3	10	18	1
Tufted Titmouse	5	13	23	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	1	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	1	1	1
Brown-headed Nuthatch	27	7	17	1
Brown Creeper	3	1	2	1
House Wren	16	6	11	1
Winter Wren	5	1	2	1
Carolina Wren	22	8	12	1
Short-b. Marsh Wren	3	15	18	1
Mockingbird	14	18	28	1
Catbird	2	3	2	1
Brown Thrasher	6	1	1	1
Robin	102	6	85	1
Hermit Thrush	2	5	30	1
Bluebird	42	66	38	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1	2	15	1
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	49	2	16	1
American Pipit	2	26	40	1
Cedar Waxwing	16	..	..	1

	Great Smokies	Windham	Lemire	Elkin	Winston-Salem	Greenville	Spartanburg	Charlotte	Statesville	High Point	Greensboro	Chapel Hill	Olive	Mt. Olive	Henderson	Raleigh	Columbia	Aiken	Charlotte	Wilmington-Salem	Windham	Great Smokies	
Loggerhead Shrike	35	1	6	41	13	6	5	13	1	15	11	6	13	9	4	3	5	70	1	250	..	..	
Starling	260	225	..	166	32	(h)	158	13	318	31	50	(i)	245	150	28	68	91	770	200	..	..	..	
Blue-headed Vireo	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Orange-cr. Warbler	50	279	650	435	19	120	4	24	2	18	12	25	96	25	2	24	8	4	2	4	..	..	
Myrtle Warbler	..	..	28	..	32	4	5	2	8	13	28	23	11	24	2	..	5	23	..	..	..	..	
Pine Warbler	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Palm Warbler	..	..	12	..	22	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Yellowthroat	7	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
House Sparrow	247	160	..	115	300	..	23	24	150	102	18	11	311	46	45	42	70	51	27	13	70	106	
Meadowlark	15	429	19	102	96	49	28	26	17	48	58	134	122	66	370	9	108	44	18	52	1	..	
Red-wing Blackbird	16	(j)	240	..	350	10	..	..	200	..	..	..	171	..	..	154	1	..	..	..	..	7	..
Rusty Blackbird	..	9	..	7	..	17	..	..	..	5	19	..	60	..	..	..	58	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boat-tailed Gackle	..	..	10	27	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purple Gackle	11	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cowbird	150	34	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cardinal	35	12	25	20	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Purple Finch	..	34	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Pine Siskin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goldfinch	27	5	69	24	95	..	58	59	33	54	19	34	164	24	60	180	51	11	39	18	..	8	49
Towhee (subsp.)	..	74	4	70	10	43	17	40	2	51	10	42	94	8	27	25	57	15	22	11	6	1	4
Ipswich Sparrow	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Savannah Sparrow	142	1	23	22	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Henslow's Sparrow	3	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-tailed Sp.	3	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vesper Sparrow	..	..	..	6	..	..	3	..	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bachman's Sparrow	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Juncos (subsp.)	186	..	60	312	200	235	544	18	197	62	340	(m)	465	100	187	120	61	238	130	48	64	150	..
Chipping Sparrow	121	20	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	90	133	..	9	1	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	20
Field Sparrow	118	35	4	84	48	46	34	172	1	8	812	195	50	3	175	86	136	11	5	12	1	60	
White-cr. Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-th. Sparrow	380	75	183	91	180	275	195	57	178	68	355	778	239	200	143	75	86	102	220	67	3	56	..
Fox Sparrow	6	6	..	1	12	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	2	..
Swamp Sparrow	29	4	70	10	250	64	56	5	63	19	50	590	43	15	42	65	46	98	24	24	11	83	..
Song Sparrow	98	70	100	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a)—1,500. (b)—2,000. (c)—18,000. (d)—2,500. (e)—1,500(f)—4,250. (g)—2,950. (h)—2,600. (i)—3,397. (j)—2,200. (k)—11,200. (l)—1,869. (m)—1,834.

# GENERAL FIELD NOTES

## *Advisory Council:*

E. B. Chamberlain  
Charleston, S. C.

Robert Holmes, Jr.  
Mt. Olive, N. C.

Robert Overing  
Raleigh, N. C.

Dr. Thomas Simpson  
Winston-Salem, N. C.

Arthur Stupka  
Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Robert L. Wolff  
Greenville, N. C.

*Department Editor:* B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional grouping. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.—B. R. C.

**Audubon Shearwaters Off Morehead City, N. C.**—I made a very interesting observation at Morehead City on July 29 and 30, 1952 when I saw upwards of 70 Audubon Shearwaters (over the period of two days and in small groups of 2 to 15) fishing along with Common and Black Terns. They seemed to be feeding mostly on scraps left when schools of bluefish and mackerel passed through schools of "bait." When in the middle of a school, the Shearwaters were so preoccupied that they allowed the wash of our boat to go clear over them. On several occasions I could have reached them with a dip-net. Most of the birds were a mile or two off shore, but at least a pair was as close in as the Inlet, opposite Fort Macon.—HENRY RANKIN, JR., Fayetteville, N. C.

**Snow Geese At Ansonville, N. C.**—On Nov. 6, 1951, while Mrs. Lockhart Gaddy was feeding her flock of several thousand Canada Geese at their famous 3-acre pond in Anson County, a group of 14 Snow Geese sailed in quite low and circled the pond a couple of times and left without alighting. This is the largest number of Snow Geese recorded as far inland as Ansonville.—Dept. Ed.

**Golden Eagle At Pea Island Refuge.**—Mr. John Steenis, Biologist for Fish and Wildlife Service, reported an immature Golden Eagle on the Refuge during the first 10 days of Dec., 1951. Later, Mr. L. B. Turner, Manager of the Refuge, also saw an adult bird. On Dec. 27, 1951, Jack Harvin, Bob Kost, Mr. Turner, and I went over the Refuge by truck and flushed the immature bird in the late morning from the dike along the north pond. Twice it dropped ahead of us into the meadow marsh grass (*Spartina patens*), which covered the dikes. Each time it flushed as the truck moved along the dike, once at less than 100 feet. It was watched carefully through 7 x 50 glasses each time, and the white wing patches and white tail base were conspicuous both from above and below. The tail was distinctly banded, not mottled. When it flushed the third time, it rose against the wind and circled back overhead, rising and falling effortlessly. It disappeared back toward the area from where it had first flushed, but not before it was studied carefully at close range. More than one half of the tail base was white. Against a near gale wind it soared swiftly after gaining height.—N. B. McCULLOCH, JR., Raleigh, N. C.

**Woodcock Courtship.**—At Matthews, N. C., near Charlotte, courtship flight of the Woodcock was first noted this season on January 1. Mild and wet weather of several days duration was probably a contributing factor. The temperature range on that day was 54 to 73 degrees. The moon was new. At about dusk, my son Norman recognized the familiar "peant," and called my attention to it. The bird was apparently on the ground near the creek bed some 200 yards east of our house. After a few repeats, the calls stopped and we heard, from almost overhead, the peculiar, incoherent, multiple twittering that accompanies the Woodcock's courtship flight. It lasted for perhaps 10 seconds while the bird came down near our spring. On the following several evenings the flights were repeated, and at 6:35 on the morning of Jan. 5 it was heard again. At that time there was a light drizzle and the temperature was 41 degrees.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

**Razor-billed Auk At Atlantic Beach, N. C.**—The afternoon of January 1, 1952, I was at Atlantic Beach, N. C., taking scenic and landscape pictures. It was a very sunny and warm day for January, and I was walking down the beach taking photographs when I noticed what looked like a duck sitting in the sand. The bird seemed dead at first, but as I got closer, I saw that it was a very much alive Razor-billed Auk. It would stand up and walk around a few steps, then sit back down in the same spot, as if it were sitting on a nest in the sand. The bird continued this "get up-walk around-sit down" routine several times before I made the picture. It seemed rather friendly with no evident desire to fly away. Whether or not the bird was hurt or sick in any way, I do not know. I left it just as I found it.—BEN F. GILLIKIN, JR., *706 Craven St., New Bern, N. C.*

Razor-billed Auk

BEN F. GILLIKIN, JR.



**Nighthawks in Migration.**—On September 6, 1951, driving northeast on Highway 19 through a valley between Andrews and Topton, North Carolina, at about 4:30 p.m., my husband and I observed numbers of nighthawks darting across the road and flying high and low on either side of the highway. This continued for a stretch of between four and five miles. It is difficult for me to estimate the number, but I should say that on the edges

about fifty were in view at one time and at the thickest point 150-200. LUCILE GAULT, Chapel Hill, N. C. (Unlike the true hawks, which generally migrate in restricted "corridors," the Bull-bats often travel in broad bands, feeding on the wing as they go. Flights numbering thousands pass over the entire expanse of the Carolinas annually.—Dept. Ed.)

**Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) Near Mattamuskeet Refuge.**—On Jan. 11, 1952, while driving along Highway 264, about 1 mile from New Holland, N. C., post-office with James B. Hunt, Jr., I stopped at Boomer's farm to look over a flock of about 3,000 Red-wings and Cowbirds feeding there. We drove into the yard within 60 feet of the corn crib where a pile of cobs and grain lay, and watched a group of some 60 Cowbirds, 100 Red-wings, and a lone female Yellow-headed Blackbird. The size, and the fact that this lone bird kept a cleared circle about 2 feet across by chasing the other birds away as she fed, drew our attention. We were equipped with 7 x 50 (Hunt) and 10 x 50 (Wolff) glasses, and allowed several minutes for careful study; there was no possibility for error in identification. We estimated the entire flock on Boomer's farm to be composed of 2,500 Red-wings, about 450 Cowbirds, and 20 Purple Grackles. The temperature was 45 degrees. There was a slight overcast and no wind.—R. L. WOLFF, Greenville, N. C.

**Blue Grosbeak Nesting At Summerville, S. C.**—I noticed in the November issue of THE CHAT that a Blue Grosbeak's nest had been found at Aynor, S. C. These birds have nested at an abandoned race track on the outskirts of Summerville for the past 3 years. The track is grown over with broom-sedge, pine and gum. Last year (1951) I found a nest with four eggs in a gum tree 2 feet above the ground. The year before, we found two broods of young and an old nest. In 1949 we found one brood of young and an old nest. Summerville is 25 miles from the ocean.—E. R. CUTHBERT, JR., Summerville, S. C.

**Dickeissel (*Spiza americana*) At Spartanburg, S. C.**—Sunday morning, Oct. 7, while observing birds and checking for the first appearance of the White-throated Sparrow on my back lawn where I keep grain scattered, much to my surprise I discovered a Dickeissel among the groups of sparrows feeding there. I had a ten minute look at the bird, using B & L 7 x 35 binoculars. Again Monday afternoon, Oct. 8, around 4 p.m. it returned to feed and remained about thirty minutes. This gave me an excellent opportunity to observe the touch of yellow on its breast, the stripe over the eye, chestnut color at the bend of the wing, and the bluish bill. HAROLD E. CORRELL, Spartanburg, S. C. (The Dickeissel is a very rare bird in South Carolina. In 1928 and again in 1929 a small colony bred near Columbia. There are a few mid-winter records for the coast.—Dept. Ed.)

**Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) Come South.**—November's early cold wave, unprecedented at many places in the Carolinas, brought a surprising flight of Evening Grosbeaks into our territory. On Nov. 18, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Smith watched a single bird at their place on Paris Mountain, near Greenville, S. C. (elevation 1,700 ft.). The bird remained in a tree on their terrace while they carefully checked the field marks with Peterson's Guide. At Asheville, N. C., Mrs. Sample Forbus had "10 or 12 of these strikingly beautiful birds" visit her feeders on Nov. 28. Mr. and Mrs. Fred May and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Parks watched a single female at their feeders during the morning and afternoon of Dec. 14. Their homes at Lenoir, N. C., are one-half block apart and it is possible that they saw the same bird. At Newfound Gap, on the N. C.-Tenn. state line, Arthur Stupka saw a single Evening Grosbeak on Dec. 30, and reported a flock of 14 birds seen on that day by members of his party near Pigeon Forge, Tenn., 7 miles north of Gatlinburg. On Dec. 15, 12 to 15 birds were again seen near Gatlinburg, and on Jan. 7 Mr. Stupka counted 22

Grosbeaks in a tree close to Park Headquarters. Three hundred miles east of the Great Smokies, at Henderson, N. C., Mrs. A. W. Bachman reported 3 Evening Grosbeaks at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Daniels. Mr. Daniels watched these birds for about 2 hours on Jan. 6. Prior to the foregoing observations, we know of but two records for North Carolina, both in the spring of 1922, and none for South Carolina. Mr. Chandler Robbins, Editor of *Audubon Field Notes*, informs us that Evening Grosbeaks were recorded in Virginia and West Virginia this winter.—*Dept. Ed.*

[The above account was written by Mr. Chamberlain on January 15. On February 5 C. D. Benbow and J. W. E. Joyner telephoned that their yards in Rocky Mount, N. C. were being "invaded by 150-200 Evening Grosbeaks." The Grosbeaks stayed until February 9, disappeared for three days, then returned and were still present at the last reporting of February 19. Mr. Joyner's sister, Mrs. E. H. McFarland, also had a "small flock" of Evening Grosbeaks in her yard in Oxford, N. C. on February 5. A more detailed account will be published in the June Chat.—T. L. Q.]

**Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) Chapel Hill, N. C.**—A male Red Crossbill was at my feeding station briefly on January 23, 1952. It has not come again but probably the same bird has been seen, I understand, by Dr. and Mrs. C. Dale Beers.—W. L. MCATEE, 3 Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, N. C.

**White-crowned Sparrow At Eastover, S. C.**—On Dec. 3, 1951, when I went home to lunch about noon, I found an immature White-crowned Sparrow eating grain on my kitchen window feeder! It was just exactly like the picture in the *Audubon Field Guide*, and very different from the White-throated Sparrows that are all over our hillside. A pair of Bluebirds and a flock of Chipping Sparrows were on the ground outside the window, and I think this bird must have come to the spring with them in search of water. It ate steadily for almost 10 minutes, and chased the female Cardinal away when she came! Although I have watched carefully, I have not seen this bird again. This is my first record of a White-crowned Sparrow at Eastover.—MRS. W. H. FAVER, Eastover, S. C. (From Gramling, S. C., 15 miles NW of Spartanburg, Mrs. M. B. Fryga wrote that White-crowned Sparrows had returned for the fifth year, this time on Oct. 13.—*Dept. Ed.*)

**Song Sparrow Summering At Greenville, S. C.**—Lack of space prevents the publication of an interesting letter from P. M. Jenness, Greenville, S. C. He has found Song Sparrows in mid-summer in his vicinity intermittently since 1940. To date no nests or young have been seen. More than likely, the birds breed there in restricted areas.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Random Notes From Elkin (Surry Co.), N. C.**—A Pied-billed Grebe was caught by hand on paved road NW of Elkin, Sept. 10, 1951. It ran and beat its wings but could not get into the air. Appetite good. An adult Coot was caught by hand in Yadkin River bottom near Elkin steel bridge Sept. 17, 1951. The bird did not fly, and it died in about 20 minutes with no outward signs of injury. Rough-winged Swallows were found nesting in terra cotta drain pipe in wall of excavation for new building June 14, 1951 and also seen entering nesting hole in top of 15 foot highway cut on June 10, 1951. Carolina Chickadees built a nest in upright 2 inch iron pipe which had been driven into ground at Mountain Park; building April 8, 6 eggs seen May 6, young seen May 20. Excessive heat of 95 degrees killed all of them on June 1, 1951.—LINVILLE HENDREN AND E. M. HODEL, Elkin, N. C.

## THE VEGETATION OF THE SOUTHPORT REGION

DR. B. W. WELLS

The well-known heron rookery on Battery Island near Southport brings to the fore the unique and most important vegetational feature of the Cape Fear prominence. The only trees on this island (and used by the birds) are the salt-spray resistant live oaks. Around the clump of trees are scattered yaupon and wax-myrtle bushes, equally spray resistant. To be correlated with the spray environment also are the old oaks preserved in the town of Southport, trees which go back to the original forest. However, the best demonstration of the selective operation of the spray is the almost pure stand of live oaks on Bald Head Island, 3 miles across the river mouth. Among these trees are scattered cedar trees and cabbage palmettoes, trees which also persist in this aerial salt environment.

On the Caswell spit the salt intensity is very high from the adjacent surf. Here the live oaks are much smaller and, together with the scattered shrubs, assume an asymmetric, repressed form due to the killing of leaves and branches on the seaward side. On the dunes directly next to the sea these shrubs do not survive and this highest intensity zone is occupied by the tall dune or sea oats grass which survives because of its salt proof exterior. In late July and early August of 1951, when this grass was in flower, Mr. Steve Boyce of the State College Department of Botany reported the appearance of large numbers of Barn Swallows in early morning feeding on insects associated with the grass florets.

In crossing to the spit from the mainland the Caswell visitor looks out over the great salt marsh of the Elizabeth River estuary. Here the salt or cord grass indicates the deeper water and the large bulrush (easily distinguished) the shallower depth. These plants, unlike the upland seaside trees and shrubs, have always been recognized as true salt water plants, their roots being bathed twice a day in undiluted sea water.

Inland from Southport is an eight-mile wide strip of non-agricultural "pineland," made up of long-leaf pine and wire grass communities alternating with depressions dominated by the evergreen shrubs of the "bay" or shrub-bog community. Where the trees have been largely removed the coarse sand areas between the bays assume a savanna aspect. In many places these sterile soil uplands are called "barrens," an apt name, for in them animal life, especially birds, is relatively low in numbers.

What the peculiar and unusual plant communities of the Southport area lack in relation to bird life is made up by the plant and animal life of the extensive salt water bodies. In addition to the ocean and the beach strands is the wide Cape Fear River mouth and from it on both sides extend prominent estuaries, those to the east meandering deep into Smith Island.—*Botany Dept., N. C. State College, Raleigh, Jan. 25, 1952.*

*The Chat* could be larger and more attractive than it now is. Good material and photographs are being held back for lack of space. If every member ADDS A MEMBER in 1952 a better *Chat* is assured.

# SPRING FIELD TRIP TO SOUTHPORT, APRIL 18-20

BY MARY GUY, *Chairman*

## Headquarters

Headquarters will be the *Caswell Beach Baptist Assembly grounds*, 7 miles from Southport on N. C. Highway 130, across the inland waterway and directly on the ocean.

## Reservations

There is no place in Southport large enough to offer overnight accommodations to all our group, but Dr. Richard K. Redwine has agreed to open the Caswell Beach Baptist Assembly facilities especially for us. The rates are:

*Hotel Rooms*—large rooms, two double beds each with private or connecting bath, per day: 1 to room—\$4.50; 2 to room—\$2.50; 3 to room—\$2.00; 4 to room—\$1.50.

*Rooms*—residence type, bath convenient, per day: 1 to room—\$2.00; 2 to room—\$1.50; 3 to room—\$1.25; 4 to room—\$1.00.

Because the nearest eating places are in Southport (about 15 miles round trip), it seemed possible that some groups would prefer to make this a camping-style trip and take advantage of the following apartments on the Assembly grounds:

*Housekeeping Apartments*—equipped with gas stoves, electric refrigerator and everything for housekeeping, except linens and sharp knives: 5 rooms with bath, beds for 18; 3 rooms with bath, beds for 10. A \$5.00 advance payment on the rent is required for the reservation of an apartment. Out of season rates for Apt.: 1 to 4 people, minimum price \$4.00 per day; over 4 people, \$1.00 per day per person.

Two apartments are being rented by groups who have agreed to allow us to use their facilities to prepare an early Saturday morning breakfast for the whole crowd. This will make it possible for everyone to "eat hearty" and still be on time for the boat trip. (Volunteer cooks and can openers will be suitably honored.) Breakfast time: 6:15 a.m.

The Assembly grounds are being opened out of season. Please try to send your reservations in early. It would be most convenient if all reservations were in by April 2. None can be accepted after April 9. *Send your reservations to Mrs. Mary Guy, 510 E. Club Blvd., Durham, N. C. Please state:* 1. Which type of rooms your party wishes, and the number of persons in the party. 2. How many rooms your party wishes. 3. The night(s) your party will need the rooms. 4. The number in your party who will wish Saturday breakfast.

## Field Trips

The scheduled field trips will be held on Saturday morning and we are going to start *early*. There will be a morning boat trip to Smith Island and to Battery Island. Afternoon trips will be arranged to nearby marshes and ponds. Low tide will be about 9:30 a.m. Three active Bald Eagle nests have been reported to the N. C. Museum and it may be possible to visit one or more of them. The details of these trips will be discussed Friday night, April 18, at the Caswell Beach Baptist Assembly grounds.

## **LOCAL CLUBS AND THEIR OFFICERS**

Chapel Hill Bird Club: P—Mrs. Matt L. Thompson; V-P—Mrs. Claudia Simmons; S-T—Mrs. H. D. Crockford; Mem. Chm.—Joe Jones.

Mecklenburg Audubon Club, Charlotte: P—Mrs. George C. Potter; V-P—Mrs. Olin P. Wearn; S—Mrs. Thad L. Harrison; T—Josephine Osborne.

Charleston Natural History Society: P—I. S. H. Metcalf; V-P—E. Burnham Chamberlain; S—Caroline Wilbur; T—Louise Perry.

Columbia Bird Club: P—Fred Sample; V-P—Kay Sisson; S—Mrs. Grady L. Price; T—Mrs. Hallie Overton.

Piedmont Bird Club, Greensboro: P—John A. McLeod, Jr.; V-P—Ethel McNairy, Ralph Faison; Cor. S—Evelyn Cole; Rec. S—Annabel Thompson; T—Harriett Mehaffie.

Greenville, S. C., Bird Club: P—May W. Puett; V-P—P. M. Jenness; S-T—Rosa Lee Hart.

Henderson Bird Club: P—Annie Burroughs; V-P & Mem. Chm.—Mrs. Sam Harris; S-T—Mrs. A. W. Bachman.

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Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Mrs. C. S. Warren; V-P—Mrs. Milton Cook, Mrs. K. A. Link; S-T—Mrs. B. F. Williams.

Lumberton Bird Club: P—James Stephens, Jr.; V-P—Mrs. Henry McKinnon; S—Mrs. D. L. Whiting; T—Lillian Whiting.

Raleigh Bird Club: P—Mrs. Mary Lockhart; V-P—Mrs. Donald A. Allison; S-T—E. W. Winkler; Mem. Chm—Harry Davis.

Roanoke Rapids Bird Club: P—Marjorie Cannon; V-P—Mrs. J. C. Fidler; S-T & Mem. Chm—Omara Daniels.

Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mrs. Lloyd Prime; V-P & S—Louise Haynes; T—Norma Shiring; Rec. S—Olive Cook; Mem. Chm—Mrs. Cecil Robinson.

Tar Heel Bird Club: P—Vaughn Brock, Hickory; S-T—Olwyn Owens, Kannapolis; Mem. Chm.—Mrs. Edwin Rogers.

Tryon Bird Club: P—Mrs. Thomas S. Clark; S-T—Mrs. H. Lan Moore; Publ. chm—Seth M. Vining; Mem. Chm—Mrs. Thomas H. Nash.

Wilmington Natural Science Club: P—Mrs. Cecil Appleberry; V-P—Mrs. Warwick Baker; T—Charles F. Theobald; S—Edith Chamberlain.

Wilson Woman's Club, Garden Dept.: Chm—Mrs. C. A. Webster; Camilla Wills; Mrs. Will Rhodes.

Winston-Salem Bird Club: P Emeritus—Henry Magie; P—Dr. Thomas W. Simpson; V-P—Mrs. Wortham Wyatt; S-T—Mrs. T. W. Simpson.

# THE CHAT

Bulletin of



Volume 16

JUNE, 1952

Number 2



# THE CHAT

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JUNE, 1952

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## CONTENTS

The President's Page .....	29
Evening Grosbeaks In The Carolinas. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	30
The Spring Migration of Purple Martins at Elizabeth City, North Carolina. <i>Phillips Russell</i> .....	34
Bird Banding In The Carolinas, 1948-1951. <i>N. B. McCulloch, Jr., and Harry T. Davis</i> .....	35
Nesting Sites Of The Slate-colored Junco in the Southern Appalachians. <i>Harvey B. and Ethel W. Lovell</i> .....	38
Photographing The Clapper Rail. <i>Jack Dermid</i> .....	40
A Young Ruby-throated Hummingbird. <i>Lucile Gault</i> .....	42
Backyard Birding. <i>Annie Rivers Faver</i> , editor .....	43
Among Our Members. <i>Charlotte Hilton Green</i> , editor .....	45
General Field Notes. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , editor .....	47
Books .....	Inside Back Cover

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*Cover Photograph*—Clapper Rail at nest, photographed at Beaufort, N. C., by Jack Dermid. Story and additional pictures are on pages 40-41 of this issue. Publication of this cover photograph has been made possible by the generosity of Mrs. George C. Potter, Vice-President of the C. B. C. and editor of our newly established *Newsletter*.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is with a feeling of deep appreciation and a sense of responsibility that I begin the year as President of the Carolina Bird Club. Through the years as a member, and especially as Treasurer, I have become personally acquainted with many of you; and I treasure the friendships which participation in the Club has brought to me. I am grateful for having as associate officers the enthusiastic and efficient persons you have elected to serve with me.

Ours is a growing organization, and we intend to keep it growing. We pledge ourselves to do our utmost to give you, the members, what you want, in the meetings, the field trips, THE CHAT, newsletters—and dues. I know of no other organization which gives you so much for \$1.00. We are able to continue operating because of the loyalty of our members, and the increasing number of Regular Members, Supporting Members, Contributing Members, and Life Members. Substantial financial aid is absolutely necessary to maintain our status and to improve our organizational activities, including continued development of THE CHAT. We are counting on your help.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Life Member? Payment of \$100 at one time or in four annual installments of \$25 entitles you to Life Membership. A few years ago the Carolina Bird Club incorporated, partly in order that gifts, donations, and legacies could be accepted properly. You who have devoted years to bird study, have you ever thought about bequeathing funds to the Club to perpetuate your interest in ornithology?

We are expanding our cooperative field studies, and we need the records of migration, nesting, and behavior of birds in the Carolinas. It is realized that the great majority of our members are amateurs, but our findings are just as important as those of the professionals. Send in your records. The professionals will evaluate and record them. Studies of hawk migrations through our States have begun, and they will be extended.

As for THE CHAT, tell us what you like about it, or don't like. Our Editor is progressive, and he welcomes suggestions. Your ideas may be just the thing we need. The Editorial Board and the Executive Committee are anxious to put the most possible of the best material in THE CHAT. Your assistance is earnestly solicited.

Let us all help to make this a year of accomplishment.

—Robert Overing

## EVENING GROSBEAKS IN THE CAROLINAS

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

*General Field Notes* of the March 1952 *Chat* reported the presence of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) in the Carolinas during the early part of the past winter. This paper comments upon the flight generally, summarizes notes on behavior, and adds other observations the details of which appear in an appendix.

Evening Grosbeaks were originally described from Michigan in 1823. The distribution was later determined to extend from northwestern Canada in summer, and south and east to Ohio and Michigan in winter with frequent erratic flights to the east and south. Recently, nesting birds have been found in the Quebec area.

A large flight of these grosbeaks into the New England States and Delaware was recorded during the winter of 1889-90. On that occasion great numbers of the visitors were said to have been shot for the millinery trade. There have been numerous flights since 1889, among them the notable ones of 1903 and 1946, but none has heretofore been recorded that penetrated so far south in such great numbers. The flight of 1951-52 was observed to reach Greenville, South Carolina, and flocks estimated to number 400 and 500 were reported at Rocky Mount and Roanoke Rapids, respectively, both at the northern end of North Carolina's Piedmont Plateau.

The arrival of the grosbeaks in this region was first reported from Greenville, S. C., November 18, 1951, when a single bird was seen by Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Smith on their place on nearby Paris Mountain. Ten days later, on Nov. 28, 10 to 12 birds were seen at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. These are only November reports. During December, reports came from Lenoir, N. C., and Newfound Gap, high in the Great Smoky Mountains. The presence of large flocks of 150 to 200 individuals at Rocky Mount, N. C., Jan. 5, heralded the large scale arrival of wintering birds that were to remain in considerable force through April.

Altogether, reports have come from 21 communities. These are doubtless but a fraction of the communities visited, but they probably represent the distribution fairly well. Unfortunately, the prolonged stay was not anticipated and our study lacked organization.

What brought the Evening Grosbeaks to the Carolinas this past winter? Weather, food, and over-population are probable factors. The nature of the species must not be overlooked. A condition that would force a stray of a solitary species beyond usual bounds might move a flock, or flocks, of Evening Grosbeaks. It is particularly gregarious, and it exhibits the behavior of a highly "nervous" animal. A startled individual will often set a mass of followers into immediate and apparently aimless flight. Weather, aside from its earlier basic control of food and over-population, may have played a part in touching off the irruption. The earlier part of winter to the north of us was severe. What promised to be a hard winter here was abnormally mild. A search for food may have been a controlling factor. It is true that food of a kind was plentiful here, and the Shaubs, at Northampton, Mass., in charge of cooperative banding of Evening Grosbeaks in the Northeast,

tell us that, "Reports of relative scarcity of natural foods continue to be received from the North Country and confirm the general theory that scarcity of natural foods rather than weather is the prime factor that influences the extensive movement of Evening Grosbeaks into a more southerly region this winter (1)." But this concerns the irruption into New England, largely from the northwest. The flight into our Carolina area almost certainly was a spill-over from the northeast where the birds now breed. Certainly one of our visitors was in the East during a previous winter; a bird banded April 24, 1950 at Ramsey, N. J., was found in Rocky Mount, N. C., in March 1952 (2). A factor in the relative food shortage may have been a repetition of the 1949 condition in Minnesota where birds, "arrived early when late Robins had eaten most of the Mountain Ash berries which are so attractive to the grosbeaks there. (3)." Food supply and over-population are not separable. An over-population is indicated in the present case. Weather conditions were favorable for nesting over most of the Northern Great Plains region last summer, and young Evening Grosbeaks were so plentiful in the Quebec area as early as July 28 that they attracted unusual comment (4). It seems likely that northeastern U. S., the overflow area for previous flights, could not support the combined overflow from the northwest and the Quebec area simultaneously.

In its normal winter habitat, the Evening Grosbeak feeds largely on seeds of maple, box elder, ash, conifers, and dried fruits. They are said to remain in the vicinity of seed-bearing box elder until the supply is exhausted. Observers in New England have added rose hips, locust pods, and fruit of the buckhorn to their recorded diet. Feeding in North Carolina was observed in some detail. J. W. E. Joyner, reporting from Rocky Mount, writes: "When the birds first came here they were never found far from the pines, the seeds of which apparently were their chief food. Some seeds from tulip poplars were also eaten. The birds favored driveways and clean patches when feeding on the ground. In gleaning seeds from the pine cones they deliberately and slowly plucked the seed out, the discarded wings floating, rather than swirling, downward. For the past month they have continued to feed on pine mast but have also been seen eating elm, maple, and oak buds. They have become regular visitors to feeding trays, consuming quantities of sunflower seeds; the seeds going in one side and the hulls drooling out of the other."

Comments upon the exciting chatter of the visitors have been general. Again quoting from Joyner's letters: "From the beginning, their constant chatter has been as distinctive as their bright color. While they were often flushed from the roadsides, they were more often and more easily found by hearing their chatter, audible a half-block away. It resembled that made by a flock of English Sparrows, the chirps being a bit longer and perhaps more musical. To these notes were added much rattling. Flying overhead and in the distance the combined sound was much like that of sleigh bells. On the ground they fed silently, only the cracking of seeds being heard."

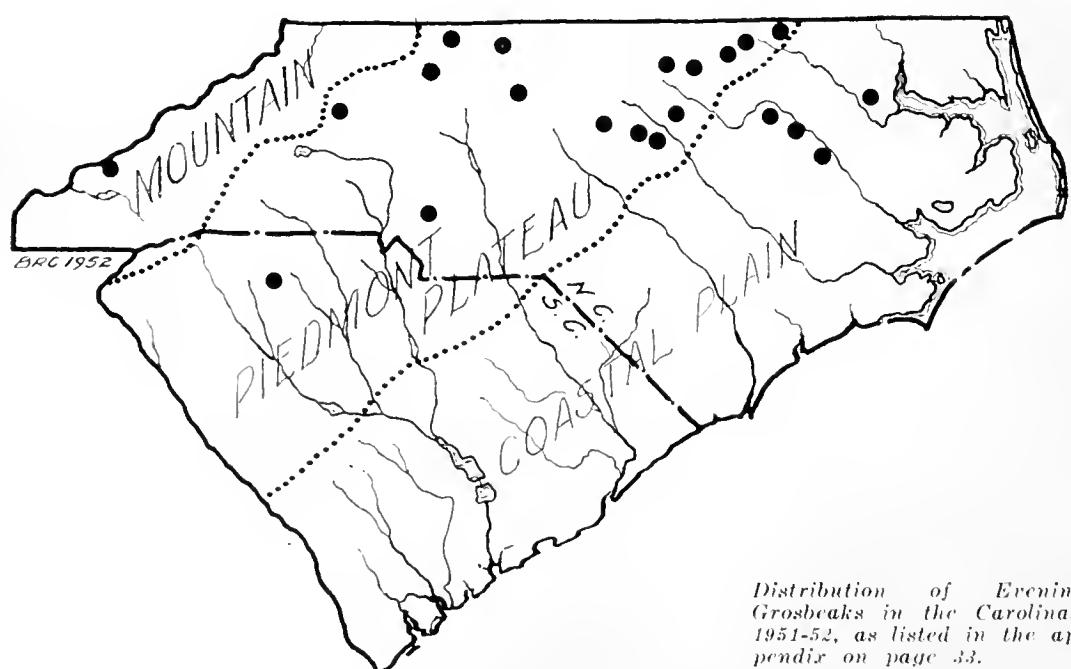
On feeding and general behavior, Mrs. A. O. Pendleton writes from Roanoke Rapids: "On Jan. 26 my husband and I were in our yard and we heard a great chattering of birds . . . they were high in our pines, in the lower trees, and all over the ground. There must have been 500 of them. Surely they must have just come in from a very long flight because the

bird bath was full of them standing as close to each other as baby chicks, all drinking and bathing at once. Hovering above the bath like hummingbirds there were dozens of them awaiting a vacant spot to alight in the water. . . . At the same time, high up in the pines were hosts of them eating pine seed. The little tabs holding the seeds were by this time floating down in such quantities it looked as if the wind were blowing them down. . . . The noise of their beaks breaking the seed sounded like bits of ice being broken. . . . (The birds) chattered incessantly in the high trees. The sound was very much like that of baby wild ducks."

On behavior, Joyner contributes this: "While they feed peacefully in trees and on the ground, when concentrated about feeders there is considerable fussing. Smaller birds are promptly pecked and shoved aside. Scraps among their own kind that I've observed have usually been won by the males and by the bird defending its place on the feeder. When (an intruder moves in) both birds put on threatening attitudes, lowering their heads and emitting a rattling buzz. Sometimes the heavy bill is opened wide, but I have seen no actual biting or pecking. The threatening attitude seems to be sufficient."

Throughout their stay the Evening Grosbeaks have disappeared at mid-afternoon, as has been noted in other locations. Where they spent their evenings and nights in the Carolinas was not determined. On the single occasion when Joyner thought he heard a grosbeak chirp at 6:00 p.m., the call actually "came from a Mockingbird, which had evidently become so accustomed to the grosbeaks that it had added their song to its repertoire."

Only a few of our observers reported sex ratios. In the larger flocks at least, females outnumbered males decidedly, and during the earlier months of their stay it is believed that the ratio was about 5 to 1, or 20% males. Later observations showed an increase in the number of males present. The preponderance of females was interesting in view of the current northern ratios: Maine, 73% males; New York, 55% males; and Pennsylvania



48% males, following the pattern of a general increase in females to the south, a trend noted previously by a number of investigators (5).

At this writing (May 1), the Evening Grosbeaks are still present in a number of communities in North Carolina, preventing the inclusion of departure data in this report. The study of the 1951-52 flight will continue.

### Literature Cited

1. B. M. & M. S. Shaub, *Evening Grosbeak Survey News*, Jan. 1952, p. 8.
2. Chandler S. Robbins, letter of Apr. 22, 1952, with footnote: Band returned by A. R. Corinth, Jr., Rocky Mt., N. C.
3. H. L. Gunderson, *Aud. Field Notes*, Feb. 1950, p. 17.
4. C. K. Nichols, *Aud. Field Notes*, Oct. 1951, p. 283.
5. B. M. & M. S. Shaub, *Evening Grosbeak Survey News*, Apr. 1952, pp. 26-27.

### Appendix

The communities from which the 1951-52 reports on Evening Grosbeaks have come are listed below. The dates are for initial observations.

- Cary, N. C. Feb. 18, 1952. Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Stephens, 20 birds.  
Chapel Hill, N. C. Nov. 28, 1952. Mrs. Sample B. Forbus, 10-12 birds (See *The Chat* 16(1):26. Correction: Recorded as Asheville, N. C., through error). Mar. 17, 1952, Mrs. Hugh L. Medford, 6 birds.  
Charlotte, N. C. Mar. 2, 1952. Olin P. Wearn, 50 or more birds in front yard.  
Elkin, N. C. Apr. 12, 1952. E. M. Hodel and Linville Hendren, 5 birds.  
Greensboro, N. C. April 4, 1952. Anne Locke and others, 2 females.  
Greenville, N. C. Feb. 16, 1952. Mrs. T. Y. Walker, Mrs. Johnson, Dr. Harold Jones, flock of 25 to 30.  
Greenville, S. C. Nov. 18, 1951. Mr. & Mrs. Sterling Smith (See *The Chat* 16(1):26) Jan. 20, 1952, May Puett and others, 2 birds.  
Henderson, N. C. Jan., 1952. W. B. Daniels, 3 birds. *The Chat* 16(1):27.  
Lenoir, N. C. Dec. 14, 1951. Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. May, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Parks. *The Chat* 16(1):26.  
Littleton, N. C. Feb. 25, 1952. Mrs. Browning B. King, large flocks.  
Madison, N. C. Mar. 20, 1952. Mrs. J. A. Martin, Mrs. S. H. Price, 18 birds.  
Mt. Airy, N. C. Feb. 11, 1952. Mrs. J. H. Jackson, 2 females.  
Newfound Gap, N. C. Dec. 30, 1951. Arthur Stupka. *The Chat* 16(1):26.  
Oxford, N. C. Feb. 5, 1952. Mrs. E. H. McFarland. *The Chat* 16(1):27, Mr. E. B. Jeffress, Jr., mid-Feb., 36 birds.  
Raleigh, N. C. Wm. Hamnett. Feb. 16, 1952, 1 bird; 10 birds on Feb. 27, and 50 on March 10.  
Roanoke Rapids, N. C. Jan. 26, 1952. Mr. & Mrs. A. O. Pendleton. See text.  
Rocky Mount, N. C. Feb. 5, 1952. C. D. Benbow and J. W. E. Joyner. See text and *The Chat* 16(1):27.  
Tarboro, N. C. March 8, 1952. Mrs. E. C. Winston, 20 birds.  
Wake Forest, N. C. March 16, 1952. Earnest E. Mitchell, Jr., 30 birds; April 7, 1952; Miss Nannie C. Holding, 1 male.  
Warrenton, N. C. March 15, 1952. Mrs. W. A. Graham, 30 to 40 birds.  
Windsor, N. C. April 7, 1952. Mrs. P. T. Anderson, 1 male.

*Matthews, N. C., May 1, 1952.*

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It appears hardly possible that a soft-billed bird should subsist on the same food with the hard-billed; for the former have thin, membranaceous stomachs suited to their soft food; while the latter, the granivorous tribe, have strong, muscular gizzards, which, like mills, grind, by the help of small gravels and pebbles, what is swallowed.—GILBERT WHITE in *Natural History of Selborne*.

# THE SPRING MIGRATION OF PURPLE MARTINS AT ELIZABETH CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

PHILLIPS RUSSELL

From March 1 to April 3—these are the two extremes in the spring arrival dates of the Purple Martins at Elizabeth City, N. C. over a 22-year period. For the 8-year period prior to 1939 the record shows a remarkable consistency. These are the arrival dates: 3/16/31, 3/15/32, 3/14/33, 3/17/34, 3/17/35, 3/19/36, 3/19/37, 3/19/38.

This record has been supplied to me by Mr. Jerome B. Flora, former mayor of Elizabeth City and now its city manager. Mr. Flora has a large Martin house in his yard, which is in the center of town. Every spring since 1931, Mr. Flora has notified me of the arrival dates of his birds and this has led to an interesting correspondence, for both of us regard the Purple Martin as the finest and most cheerful of all yard birds.

After establishing this remarkable record through 1938, the Martins suddenly appeared 19 days earlier in 1939, that is, on March 1. Then came a laggard arrival on March 28, 1940, followed by the very late date of April 3 in 1941. Succeeding arrival dates as furnished by Mr. Flora follow: 3/12/43, 3/25/44, 3/22/46, 3/8/49, 3/23/50, 3/28/51, 3/20/52.

Elizabeth City is a large coastal town in northeastern North Carolina. Indications are that migrant Martins follow the coastline northward in spring and, after establishing themselves in the North Carolina coastal plain, take from 10 to 14 days to reach the interior of the State. My earliest date for the Chapel Hill region is March 12.

Each spring the first Martins to arrive are the scouts, which often travel in pairs. The main flock follows one, two, or three days later. Nesting boxes or gourds apparently must make an impression of space and cleanliness on these scouts if a colony is to be established. Bluebirds and Starlings, and sometimes Carolina Wrens and Carolina Chickadees, will compete with the Martins for nesting sites and if stubborn enough will drive newcomers away.

What influences the arrival dates of Martins is not certainly known. Cold weather, storms, and high winds are likely to be delaying factors, but probably the determining factor in Martin migration in spring is the question of food. If insects are plentiful, the Martins push rapidly northward. If insects are scarce, the Martins advance slowly. We need more studies and observations in this field.—*School of Journalism, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C., April 9, 1952.*

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PHILLIPS RUSSELL is well known to Carolinians as a contributor to *The Chat*. He is responsible for the short "nature quotes" on page 37.—T. L. Q.

## BIRD BANDING IN THE CAROLINAS, 1948-1951

N. B. McCULLOCH, JR., AND HARRY T. DAVIS

Systematic bird banding was first done in Denmark in 1899. It was in 1803 that Audubon used silver wire to band his now famous brood of Phoebes, but a century went by before Dr. Paul Bartsch, working with Black-crowned Night Herons, first demonstrated the research possibilities of bird banding in this country. By 1920 the success of the method had been established, and the task of keeping central records was taken over by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This federal agency administers all organized bird banding in North America and supplies numbered aluminum bands to authorized cooperators.

In North Carolina both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Resources Commission carry on systematic banding of certain game species. Several hundred ducks and geese are banded each year at the Pea Island and Lake Mattamuskeet refuges. A State project on Mourning Doves has resulted in the banding of 3,081 doves between Aug. 1, 1949, and Dec. 31, 1951.

This article, however, deals with the work of individual cooperators, who band birds as a hobby in their spare time. These cooperators make valuable contributions to our knowledge of the life histories and behavior patterns of birds. The purpose of this summary is to bring these Carolina banders into closer contact with each other. It is based on material furnished by 11 of the 21 licensed banders in the two States, and covers the last three *banding* years (May 1, 1948—April 30, 1951). Of the remaining 10 banders, 7 are inactive at present and 3 did not reply. In the summary discussions below, the name and location of each bander is given, along with his total for the three years.

WILLIAM L. ANDERSON, JR., Winston-Salem, N. C.—126. Included were 35 White-throated Sparrows and 1 Screech Owl. College study has limited Mr. Anderson's banding recently; he banded 301 birds in 1947-1948.

F. S. BARKALOW, JR., Raleigh, N. C.—48. Dr. Barkalow's banding, incidental to wildlife management teaching at N. C. State College, included 1 Upland Plover, 4 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 22 Mourning Doves. Four out of 14 Doves banded in 1949 were later recovered, which is a high percentage.

HELEN D. CROCKFORD, Chapel Hill, N. C.—326. Mrs. Crockford banded 20 species, including 131 Purple Finches, 56 White-throated Sparrows, 33 Cardinals, 25 Juncos, and 23 Chipping Sparrows. A recovery of one of the Purple Finches by Horace Groskin at Ardmore, Pennsylvania, is noteworthy, since the bird seems to have wintered at the two locations in successive years.

HARRY T. DAVIS, Ralclgh, N. C.—1,373. During the past 25 years, Mr. Davis has banded thousands of small birds, but in recent years has specialized in colonial species. In 1940 he banded more than one thousand gulls and terns at the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, and has made several trips to Pea Island since that time. Recoveries of his Royal Terns have been reported from Florida, Cuba, Mexico, and Colombia. Because

of his position as director of the N. C. State Museum, Mr. Davis has been able to band many birds brought to him for identification.

WILLIAM H. HON, Charlotte, N. C.—162. Mr. Hon began banding in 1950, while in wildlife management at N. C. State College. Work with a Mourning Dove trapline afforded him most of his opportunities for the banding of 62 Starlings, 32 Mockingbirds, 6 Meadowlarks, 3 Sparrow Hawks, 3 Blue Grosbeak, 2 Cowbirds and 1 Shrike. Mr. Hon entered the armed forces in August, 1951.

R. G. MACFARLAN, Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown, S. C.—1,737. This station was operated under the license of P. L. Hovey until his death in September, 1951. It is now under the license of Mr. MacFarlan, the Superintendent of Wildlife at Brookgreen Gardens. The wintering ducks are the main birds handled, and the number of traps is to be increased in the near future. The bandings for the past three years were: Ring-necked Duck—1,054, Lesser Scaup—161, Coot—387, all others—135 (grebes, Black Duck, teal, Redhead, Canvas-back, rails, and gallinules).

CLAUDE H. McALLISTER, JR., Wilmington, N. C.—305. Mr. McAllister banded 40 species, the most unusual of which was a Blue Goose found entangled in a fence near Wilmington. Some others of special interest were: 2 Clapper Rails, 7 Wilson Plovers, 3 Oyster-catchers, 4 Great Horned Owls, 21 Orchard Orioles, 3 Boat-tailed Grackles, 85 White-throated Sparrows, 59 Field Sparrows, 8 Fox Sparrows, 2 Hermit Thrushes, and 7 White-eyed Vireos. Recoveries of birds banded elsewhere included a Laughing Gull banded at Stone Harbor, N. J., and a Green-winged Teal banded in Newfoundland.

N. B. McCULLOCH, JR., Raleigh—668. Bandings at the home station included 93 Blue Jays, 80 White-throated Sparrows, 47 Cardinals, 6 Baltimore Orioles (winter residents), and 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (spring migrant). Birds taken incidental to the operation of a Mourning Dove trapline were 27 Bob-whites, 51 Vesper Sparrows, 7 Blue Grosbeaks, 7 Cowbirds, 6 Meadowlarks, 4 Savannah Sparrows, 3 Pipits, and 2 Sparrow Hawks. In 1949 a trip to the Battery Island Heronry at Southport, N. C., yielded 75 Louisiana Herons, 14 Snowy Egrets, 13 Little Blue Herons, and 3 American Egrets.

H. L. MEDFORD, Greensboro, N. C.—1,365. Mr. Medford banded 47 species during the three-year period, including a number of waterfowl which were trapped on a small pond ten miles from Greensboro. He furnished us with a detailed list of species, repeats, returns, and recoveries, which we hope to reproduce at a later time along with an article by Mr. Medford on his banding station methods and results. Mr. Medford had particularly large totals of White-throated Sparrows (437), Cardinals (173), Mourning Doves (116), and Towhees (115). The returns (birds retrapped three months or more after banding) on these four species were: White-throated Sparrow—10 per cent, Cardinal—35 per cent, Mourning Dove—11 per cent, and Towhee—17 per cent. Other species banded were Green Heron, Mallard, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Crow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Brown Creeper, the three species of nuthatches, and many of the other small birds.

JAMES STEPHENS, Lumberton, N. C.—864. Mr. Stephens is well known for his banding work in the Lennon's Marsh heron colony over the past twelve years. He has also done a limited amount of small bird banding. Unfortunately, many of his records were lost during the war years, and a complete list of recent work was not available. He stated, "The number of birds banded each year since 1939 was from 30 to 600 per year, excepting 1944-46." His total heron recovery rate was less than 1 per cent. Among the 864 birds reported for the past three years were 536 Little Blue Herons, 237 White Ibises, 50 Louisiana Herons, 24 American Egrets, 9 Black-crowned Night Herons, and 8 Great Blue Herons. Some of these were banded at Battery Island, Southport, N. C. The White Ibises which nested at Lennon's Marsh for the first known time in May, 1950 were the first of this species banded by a Fish and Wildlife Service cooperator in nine years; 3 of them were recovered in South Carolina and 1 in Georgia. (Some Water-Turkeys were banded at Lennon's Marsh a number of years ago. Also, Mr. Stephens mentioned a Catbird banded in 1939 which returned eight years later. A Rusty Blackbird banded in the spring of 1943 in Lumberton was caught in a muskrat trap near Sebright, Ontario, in the spring of 1944.)

R. E. WARE, Clemson College, S. C. Mr. Ware has been inactive during the past few years, but began banding again recently. He banded 200 Chimney Swifts in October, 1951.

It is our hope that this resumé will stimulate increased interest in bird banding among C.B.C. members, and we would be glad to help prospective new banders get started. In the future, we would like to publish in *The Chat* yearly accounts of Carolina bird banding activities, and suggest that cooperators be keeping their records with this in mind.—Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 10, 1952.

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In order to see birds it is necessary to become a part of the silence. One has to sit still like a mystic and wait. One soon learns that fussing, instead of achieving things, merely prevents things from happening. To be passive is in some circumstances the most efficient form of activity. You cannot command events. You can only put yourself in the place where events will happen to you.—ROBERT LYND in *Solomon in all his Glory*.

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And I think there is not any man to whom some bird call will not reach, to remind him of things he thought he had forgotten. The call of a crow makes me smell sunburnt grass; the chuckle of a wren has in it all the invitation of April, the running of Blue Ridge brooks, the honeyed odor of azalea, the light feet and heart of holiday.—D. C. PEATTIE in *Singing in the Wilderness*.

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But there is one outstanding sound which is fine music above all other, the drumming of the snipe. It is impossible not to be impressed with this weird noise and to look for its origin. Perhaps the bird will be quite near, a mere speck in the sky overhead, or it may be almost half a mile away, yet the reverberating sound will reach our ears.—E. C. KEITH in *Woodcock and Snipe*.

## NESTING SITES OF THE SLATE-COLORED JUNCO IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

HARVEY B. AND ETHEL W. LOVELL

The (Carolina) Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis carolinensis* Brewster) nests in a variety of places in the southern Appalachians, usually on the ground but also above the ground occasionally. All of the ground nests of which we can find a record were placed below overhanging roots, logs, stones, etc., or in steep banks.

Eifrig (*Auk* 37:556), in Western Maryland, described a nest under overhanging roots and moss. Brooks (*Auk* 26:85), on the summit of Spruce Knob in West Virginia, described a nest under the edge of a stone, and stated that all the nests found on this mountain were similarly placed under the edges of protecting rocks. Lovell (*Auk* 67:107), described a nest from Big Black Mountain, in Kentucky, under a log on a slope, and later (*Kentucky Warbler* 26:63-64) a nest well protected by roots in the side of a vertical bank along a temporary road. Burleigh (*Auk* 42:71) described several nests on Brasstown Bald in northern Georgia. One nest was set flush with the thick green moss on a steep slope and protected from above by a root. He also reported three Junco nests about 8 feet above the ground in red maple and grapevine clumps.

Several unusual nesting sites have been described by Alexander Sprunt for North Carolina. One nest was found on a rafter in a garage (*Auk* 47:568). Another nest had been built in a fern basket on the porch of a large house, less than one foot from the doorway to the living room! The plants in the basket grew luxuriantly, and the bird was well concealed as it sat on its 4 eggs. Additional rafter nests were reported by Sprunt in 1934 (*Auk* 51:531).

On June 4, 1947, we flushed a (Carolina) Slate-colored Junco from its nest in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina. The nest had been placed on a flat, grassy patch one foot from the edge of the well-traveled path that leads from the parking lot at Forney Ridge to Andrews Bald, at an altitude of 6,000 feet. The nest was made of straw and lined with colored hair. On the margin of the nest there were a few twigs from coniferous trees. On one side the nest was enlarged by a mass of green moss. (Similar patches of moss have been present in 3 nests of Juncos that we have examined in Kentucky.) The margin of the nest was about one inch above the ground but exactly level with the dead grass which formed a layer over the roots of the sod. The nest was set slightly into the soil, as we could verify by running a finger under its edge. Juncos regularly set their nests in depressions in the ground, presumably doing much of the excavating themselves.

The nest site was a smooth, ten-foot wide area of short, sparse grasses and sedges which inadequately covered the nest. On both sides of the bath were low growths of yellow birches, fire cherries, mountain maples, blueberries, and blackberries. After taking several pictures of the nest, we went on to

Andrews Bald, one of the grassy balds for which the Great Smoky Mountains are famous. The grassy patch in which the nest was located was in reality an extension of the grasses and sedges back up the path from the bald. This general area was unusually free from the overhanging banks which usually serve as nesting sites for this species. Juncos that had taken up residence in this vicinity may have been forced to nest in the open area.

When we returned along the path an hour later, the incubating bird was again flushed from the nest. We met several other hikers along this trail, all of whom must have frightened the Junco from its nest whenever they passed.—*University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky., Oct. 26, 1951.*

*Editor's Note.*—A. F. Ganier, Nashville, Tennessee, in a letter to Arthur Stupka dated February 22, 1943, wrote of finding a number of Junco nests in trees on Mt. LeConte in the Great Smokies, some nests being as high as 30 feet above the ground. D. L. Wray (CHAT 10:86) recorded a nest three feet up in a hemlock sapling. Donald J. Nicholson (unpublished notes, 1946-51) consistently found a small percentage of Junco nests in blueberry and blackberry bushes and up to 10 feet above the ground in spruce and balsam trees, on Mt. Pisgah, N. C., and at Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome in the Smokies. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., (personal correspondence, Oct. 22, 1951) reported finding perhaps a dozen nests like the one described above by Professor Lovell, "in small tussocks of grass in completely open pastures or fields and along well-traveled paths or walks," around Blowing Rock, N. C., between 1923 and 1934. T. D. Burleigh (Auk 58:344), discussing Carolina Junco nests on Mt. Mitchell, N. C., says, "They are invariably well-concealed, and are placed in the upturned roots of a wind-thrown tree, in the side of a low bank, or sunken flush with the ground at the edge of a clearing."—T. L. QUAY.

State-colored Junco Nest

HARVEY B. LOVELL



## PHOTOGRAPHING THE CLAPPER RAIL

*Story and Pictures by JACK DERMID*

*Photos courtesy North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission*

Success in wildlife photography is as unpredictable as the appearance of Evening Grosbeaks in North Carolina. Many factors combine to make it impossible to get a good picture every time a camera is focused. It is also a task that cannot be hurried—unless the photographer is lucky.

Luck was with me last July 26 when I went to Town Marsh near Beaufort, N. C. for pictures of the Clapper Rail. The photos were needed to illustrate an article on rails in *Wildlife in North Carolina*, and the printer's deadline was fast approaching. Having located a nest containing eggs, Dr. T. L. Quay phoned me in Raleigh and I arrived in Beaufort that night with the sad tale of having only a half day available for photography. It was a rush job with a species that I had never photographed before. I was apprehensive.

Early the following morning, Dr. Quay rowed me across the narrow channel to Town Marsh, which in reality is an island of low sand dunes fringed with marshland. The Clapper Rail's nest was located just above the drift zone at the southern end in a dense patch of the salt-marsh grass, *Spartina patens*. It was so well protected that the incubating rail was difficult to see from a distance of four feet. The bird left its eggs and sneaked through the grass a few yards before flushing. It soon disappeared and its protests subsided. I quickly removed the screen of vegetation on one side of the nest to make photography possible. The overhead dome was left intact. A large camera and flash reflector were placed on a tripod about three feet from the eggs. Its shiny parts were partially camouflaged with a raincoat, and a hundred-foot remote control cord attached.

Now came the big problem. There was no place to hide within reach of the remote control cord. The marsh grass extended a few yards, then there was a slope of bare sand. Had a natural blind of sea oats or salt bush been available it would have been practically useless since the nest was in a depressed area and invisible. We did not have time to erect a blind close enough to watch the nest. Besides, the rail probably would not have tolerated it.

How were we going to know when to click the shutter? We did not know. We decided to take four exposures, at hour intervals, and then quit lest we cause the rail to desert its nest. Our success was in the hands of lady luck.

An hour after the camera was placed in position, I crawled slowly and quietly over the bare sand to the remote control button. I pushed it, expecting the rail to flush with the sudden flash and shutter click. Nothing happened. When I went to the camera to prepare it for the next exposure, I found only the seven creamy buff, sepia, and lilac-colored eggs. Several stems of marsh grass were hanging between them and the camera. We wondered whether the rail or the wind had placed them there.

An hour later, I pushed the button again, and again nothing happened. But as I neared the nest the rail flushed from the grass several yards behind it. More stems of *Spartina patens* had been pulled down from above (see front cover). The bird was building a screen between it and the

8:00 a.m.



10:00 a.m.



11:00 a.m.



camera. I was confident I had a picture this time, but not sure if the bird was in a desirable position or in the zone of focus.

At hour intervals, I made two more exposures without seeing the bird again or without finding more grass draped in front of the nest. One time it appeared that the position of the eggs had been changed slightly.

Dr. Quay and I had no way of knowing what success we had achieved, if any. We had been shooting blindly, and the results were hidden on the undeveloped film. We quickly removed the camera, and restored the nesting cover to its original condition before departing. I returned to Raleigh on schedule.

When the film was processed, we found the Clapper Rail pictures better than we had even dreamed of getting—the results of the four exposures are shown with this nature short and on the front cover.—*Raleigh, N. C., April 10, 1952.*

### A Young Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

LUCILE GAULT

Almost any time during the month of July, 1951, visitors to Cherokee, North Carolina (Qualla Reservation), were likely to see a local woman going about her daily shopping surrounded by a small crowd. On her dress was pinned a twig with a Hummingbird's nest, and in the nest was a baby hummer! Mrs. Naomi Sneed had read that nestling Hummingbirds fed almost continuously, so she took the bird wherever she went, feeding it sugar water and mountain honey, at first with a medicine dropper and in later weeks with a spoon.

The bird was found on the ground when it was only a few days old, abandoned by the parents after the branch holding the nest had been torn down accidentally by a tractor. It was interesting to watch the bird feather out and to see it strengthen its wings as the days and weeks passed. Most of the time (five weeks) it remained voluntarily in its nest. Then one day it tried a flight. . . . Mrs. Sneed writes: "Be sure to state its sad fate—death at the beak of a New Hampshire Red rooster. Well, we ate the rooster!"—*Route 2, Chapel Hill, N. C., Jan. 9, 1952.*



# BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, *Department Editor*  
Eastover, South Carolina

During the heat of our summer months, we often find that more birds are attracted to our yards by an ample water supply than by any food that is offered. At our home I keep only the feeder at the kitchen windows filled. This causes the baby birds to be brought right to the windowsill to be fed their milk-soaked bread, which gives us a wonderful opportunity to study them and to enjoy their amusing antics. A suet container hangs on one side over the shelf, and a Hummingbird feeder on the other side. This arrangement enables us to have our meals just inside the windows while the birds are having theirs on the outside!

Since insects are so abundant all summer long many of our common birds will neglect feeding stations. But water they have to have, and if they can't find it in your yard they'll go elsewhere. So let us all keep our birdbaths cleaned and filled with fresh water, and, if possible, in a shady place. A splendid way to attract birds to your birdbath or pool is to arrange for water to drip or trickle into it. I read of concealing an old barrel or large bucket in thick shrubbery or behind a rock wall so that water would drip slowly into a basin below. The sound of the falling water is always enticing, and we may have unusual visitors to our yards if we thus advertise our water supply!

Mrs. F. P. Sneed, Lake View, S. C. describes what she calls a "splash pool" in her yard. Her husband took a little cement and lined a hollowed-out place on the ground near a low-branching oak. The leaves and straw falling in and around the water give this pool a natural look, and she has found that it far surpasses any bath on a pedestal. Many birds have used it, especially a flock of Goldfinches during February. Mrs. Sneed also reported the unusual experience

of having a Phoebe take food from her feeding station. The bird would perch near one of the feeders, then dart over and take a piece of pecan in the same manner as it would catch an insect in the air; this bird used the splash pool frequently.

Do you put up feeders for Hummingbirds? If you don't, you are certainly missing a lot of fun. As soon as you see the first Hummingbird in your yard, wire several small bottles or tubes to a stake at a slight angle, or hang them from a limb, near some flowers. Fill them with a mixture of one part sugar and two parts water, then sit back and watch the fun begin! To keep ants from bothering the syrup, run the wires through discs of tangle-foot. After a few days, additional feeders can be put up just outside your windows, where you can watch the birds more easily. Feeding Hummingbirds is quite different from feeding other birds, and opens a whole new field of interest. Try it, this summer.

While many of our readers have expressed dislike for the manners displayed by Blue Jays and squirrels around their bird feeders, others have been just as provoked by Mockingbirds and Myrtle Warblers. What are your trouble makers, and what are you doing about them?

Mrs. John Winn, Charleston, S. C. reported a male Painted Bunting in brilliant spring plumage on March 1, 1952, in the Riverland Terrace area. Though several mid-winter occurrences have been noted for the Charleston district, this date is early for a spring arrival. *South Carolina Bird Life* gives earliest and latest dates as March 21 and Nov. 5. For an extended period in the fall of 1949 Mrs. Francis Barrington observed a Painted Bunting viciously fight-

ing its reflection in her dining room window near her year-round feeder.

Caroline Wilbur, Charleston, S. C., had a Barred Owl in her garden on December 1 and 2, 1951. Mrs. A. W. Bachman saw a partial albino Junco at Henderson, N. C. on March 22, 1952; the head was completely white.

B. R. Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C., writes, "On Feb. 2, 1952, while I watched a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker drilling a small maple here at "Critter Hill," a male Purple Finch lighted in the top of the tree. To my surprise, the Finch cocked his head on one side, eyed the Sapsucker for a few moments, and dropped to a limb within a few inches of it. The Sapsucker seemed undisturbed at first, but when the Finch sidled closer it flew. The Finch promptly moved in to the trunk of the maple, put its beak into the hole the Sapsucker had opened, and at least went through the motions of feeding for several minutes."

Mrs. Francis Bannington, Charleston, S. C., gives us the following outstanding report of an Orange-crowned Warbler: "I have had a single Orange-crowned Warbler at my feeding station for the past five winters. I have not

done any banding, but believe that the one individual observed each year has been the same bird. It has fed on the beef suet, dried fig, and fine cracked corn (baby chick feed) at the dining room window feeder and also at the bath feeder just under this window. My first identification was (1) Jan. 14, 1948. That spring I observed it frequently till March 14. (2) It (?) was back again by Dec. 30, 1948. I have recordings through Jan. 10, 1949 (though probably saw it later without recording). (3) It (?) was back again by Nov. 15, 1949 and was recorded through April 10, 1950. I saw the orange crown well displayed several times during that fall-winter occurrence while the bird was in the bath. (4) In 1950 it was first seen on Nov. 22, and stayed through March 30, 1951. (5) Nov. 21 was my earliest record for the fall of 1951, and I have seen it today, March 10, 1952. It has become quite tame, permitting a black-and-white picture at 20 inches (using portrait lens) while on the feeder, with the window up and nothing between the bird and me. Unfortunately, the picture had to be taken against a bright light with no sunlight on the bird. On Jan. 17, 1952, I took a color picture (35mm transparency) at 2½ feet, with the bird feeding on suet at the bird bath."

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### C. SHAW WARREN

On December 20th 1950, C. Shaw Warren of Lenoir, N. C., died of a heart attack. Mr. Warren was a leader in the church life, civic life, and educational life of his community and State. He was a charter member of the Lenoir Audubon Club and a long time member of Carolina Bird Club. The moving spirit that prompts the noble men and women of the Carolinas to matriculate in the school of Ornithology suffered a great loss when Shaw Warren was promoted. One of the great educators of N. C. was recently heard to say: "It was my association with Shaw Warren that resulted in my devotion to, and study of, our native wild birds. In them I now have a vital and abiding interest." May the interest in, and devotion to, our common cause, as exemplified by Shaw Warren, inspire others to follow in his train.—R. T. GREER.

# AMONG OUR MEMBERS

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN, *Department Editor*  
3320 White Oak Road, Raleigh, N. C.

The S. G. BALDWINS, big tree photographers (their excellent film is called Big Tree Expedition), were at Gatlinburg, Tennessee to attend the Wilson Club meeting. They remained over for the second annual Wildflower Pilgrimage at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park the following week-end. They have already photographed 65 species of "biggest trees" and are on the hunt for more, so if you know of a tree that you believe to be the largest of its kind, please write them at Catlin, Illinois.

RICHARD W. WESTWOOD, editor of *Nature Magazine*, attended the recent 17th North American Wildlife Conference in Miami, Florida and liked that region. Here's an invitation to attend our next field trip to eastern Carolina, Mr. Westwood, where we can show you interesting birding too!

The HICKORY BIRD CLUB's dominant feature at a recent seasonal program was an illustrated avian concert, using bird songs from recordings, and colored slides of birds being projected as they sang. Arthur Moser gave the highlights of a recent natural history report on the bird population of Colombia, S. A., which is said to have more than twice as many species of birds as all of North America, due to its extremes of tropical and high mountain climates.

ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., after completing a six-weeks Audubon Screen Tour through the Middle West, returned to Charleston on May 10, where he expects to be most of the summer working on his revision of Howell's *Florida Bird Life*. In the late summer he will spend a month in the Dry Tortugas Keys, then turn to further work on his Texas bird book.

Miss DOROTHY HUTAFF is a Contributing Member from Fayetteville, N. C., where she teaches

kindergarten in the Highland Presbyterian Church. The Hutaffs are an old North Carolina family with lovely homes and gardens, including a cottage at Morehead City where they spend a part of every summer. Miss Hutaff became actively interested in birds about four years ago through the help and encouragement of her brother-in-law, Henry Rankin.

Miss MAY PUETT, Contributing Member from Greenville, S. C. and Secretary of the C. B. C., is President of the GREENVILLE BIRD CLUB, which she organized in 1948. The Greenville Club, with the added backing of the Augusta Road Garden Club and Mayor J. Kenneth Cass, was recently successful in having Greenville officially declared a bird sanctuary. Through the united efforts of these two clubs many of the farmers of Greenville County are having their lands declared wildlife preserves.

D. E. WADE, Clemson College, S. C., recently showed his color films of the Peregrine Falcon, Pileated Woodpecker, and Horned Grebe at a meeting of the GREENVILLE, S. C., BIRD CLUB. He showed the last two of these at the annual meeting of the Wilson Club in Gatlinburg.

The GILBERT STEPHENSONS, formerly of Winston-Salem and Raleigh, but more recently from Wilmington, Delaware, have come back to North Carolina. Their home is "Warren Place," near Pendleton, where with broad acres, woodlands, gardens, and a private lake they are adding birds to their gardening interests.

HAL H. HARRISON, Outdoors Editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and producer of outdoor and wildlife motion pictures in color, is working on a film to be entitled *Atlantic Adventures*. After a February jaunt in New England

under the auspices of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, he planned to spend about six weeks along the Atlantic Coast. He is particularly interested in our *Out-of-Doors in Carolina*. C. B. C. members will be looking forward to seeing *Atlantic Adventures*.

Mrs. C. S. WARREN, president of the LENOIR AUDUBON CLUB, has been attending educational meetings as an exhibitor of text books. She spreads bird lore constantly, and stresses membership in the C. B. C.

DR. HARVEY B. LOVELL is Professor of Biology in the University of Louisville, and Editor of the *Kentucky Warbler*, the bulletin of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Mrs. Lovell teaches biology in high school.

*Greensboro, N. C.*—CLEVELAND P. GRANT, nationally-known naturalist and lecturer, presented the program for the PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB's biennial open meeting February 28. Well over 1,000 persons heard Mr. Grant, in Aycock Auditorium on the Woman's College campus.

Mr. Grant's lecture was illustrated with three reels of film, all done masterfully in color. Two reels dealt primarily with birds of the northern prairie states and the third with big game in the Canadian Rockies. This was the third engagement in Greensboro for Mr. Grant, the two previous ones having also been under sponsorship of the local bird club at biennial open meetings. It has been the established policy of the club to present at these free, open-meeting programs a well-known authority in the field of ornithology or natural history.

Prior to the program the club's executive board, headed by president John A. McLeod, Jr., honored Mr. and Mrs. Grant at a dinner at Greensboro Country Club. Following the program, a reception was

held at Mrs. Martha Cook Coleman's where club members and a few guests met the Grants.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant spend about six months each year in the field gathering new material and making new films. During the lectures, Mrs. Grant assists her husband by showing the films. The Grant lectures have been heard by thousands of audiences, ranging from general groups to those of scientific societies and institutions. Mr. Grant's record is high-lighted by several repeat engagements before each of a considerable number of these sponsoring organizations.—JOHN A. MCLEOD, JR., March 1, 1952.

In the evening after the Spring Count on Sunday, May 4, the *Piedmont Bird Club* enjoyed a picnic dinner at Justamere Farm, the country home of Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Taylor. Following the dinner, officers elected in April for the 1952-53 club year were installed and results of the count tabulated. The census and dinner were combined in a single event this year. Usually, an outdoor breakfast is held at some date after the census to conclude the club year and install new officers. Mrs. Taylor served during the year just ended as the club's hospitality chairman. New officers are: P—Dale Keller; V-P—C. R. Hall and Hugh L. Medford; Cor. S.—Evelyn Cole; Rec. S.—Mrs. John A. McLeod, Jr.; T—Harriett Mehaffie; and Mem-at large—Ralph Faison and John A. McLeod, Jr.

The new officers for the WILMINGTON NATURAL SCIENCE CLUB for the coming year are: P—Mrs. W. C. Mebane; V-P—Mrs. H. Vander Schalie; S—Mrs. J. Glisson; T—Cecil Appleberry.

The new officers of the MECKLENBURG CLUB, elected at the April meeting, are: P—Olin Wearn; V-P—Mrs. Thad Harrison; S—Mrs. H. C. Gresham; T—Josephine Osborne.

# GENERAL FIELD NOTES

## Advisory Council:

E. B. Chamberlain Charleston, S. C.	Robert Overing Raleigh, N. C.	Arthur Stupka Gatlinburg, Tenn.
Robert Holmes, Jr. Mt. Olive, N. C.	Thomas Simpson, M.D. Winston-Salem, N. C.	Robert L. Wolff Greenville, N. C.

Department Editor: B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional grouping. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.—B. R. C.

**Oil-soaked Gannets.**—A letter to Harry Davis from Aycock Brown of Manteo, N. C., dated March 9, 1952, follows in part: "While on a beach-combing trip on Feb. 28, 1952, a couple of days after an off-shore storm, between Jennette's Pier and Bodie Island Coast Guard Station, a distance of about 5 miles, I counted 11 live and 2 dead Gannets. The following afternoon I counted 7 live and 4 dead Gannets. They were in a pitiful plight. Farther north, along Nag's Head beach, 3 live oil-soaked Gannets were reported. I saw probably a half dozen loons in the same condition. That is not unusual, but Gannets are seldom found oil-soaked." This total of 27 dead or doomed Gannets counted in so short a length of beach indicates that the loss on the upper N. C. coast may have been considerable. Apparently a heavy concentration of oil was present just prior to the find, due to the practice by coastwise vessels of pumping out their bilges before entering the Virginia ports. Jack Dermid has one of his Nature Shorts, with 4 photographs, on this subject in the May 1952 issue of *Wildlife In North Carolina*.—Dept. Ed.

**Coots Versus Gulls on Currituck Sound.**—During the waterfowl season of 1949-50 the kill of Coots was very high on Currituck Sound, and a large percentage of crippled Coots was left swimming around this area. Approximately 10 or 15 Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls were observed catching and eating these wounded Coots during February, 1950. During the season of 1950-51 I observed approximately 20 gulls taking some Coots from flocks, as well as crippled specimens. During October, 1951, 2 months before the waterfowl season, approximately 30 gulls were seen taking Coots from the flocks. A single gull would dive at a flock, making the birds dive and go in a tight formation. Then the gull would light on the water and try to catch a Coot. This would keep up for hours until finally a Coot broke from the flock, half flying and half paddling toward the gull to give fight. In this rush the gull would knock the Coot out and proceed to eat it. This continued day and night, reducing the Coot flocks at the rate of at least 10 to 15 birds per day on Currituck Sound.—ROBERT HALSTEAD, U. S. Game Management Agent, Washington, N. C.

**Marsh Hawk from Illinois.**—J. C. Harkins, Supt. of Public Utilities at LaGrange, N. C. was given a banded hawk that had been killed there about Mar. 1, 1952. He wrote the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reporting the find, and received a letter dated Mar. 10 from Karl E. Bartell which stated: "The bird carrying band No. 516-44121 was a Marsh Hawk banded by me on June 18, 1951 at Willow Springs, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. It was one of 6 young hawks I banded. Since 1933 I have banded 10 of these birds, with 3 returns counting yours. Also since 1933 I have banded over 35,000

birds of 153 species, and the bird you found is the first of mine that has ever been reported from North Carolina.—DR. J. W. P. SMITHWICK, *LaGrange, N. C.*

**A Further Note on a Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) at Chapel Hill, N. C.**—On January 24, 1952 there appeared at our feeding table in the residential section of Chapel Hill an adult male Red Crossbill. Probably it was the same bird that Dr. W. L. McAtee observed on January 23 at his feeding station, which is about a half-mile removed from our residence. Its presence in Chapel Hill has already been reported by Dr. McAtee (CHAT 16: 27). From January 24 to March 9, when it was last seen, it made repeated visits to our feeding station, and to the stations of three of our neighbors. During this period it was seen at our table on 17 different days, always in the company of a band of Purple Finches. It was very fond of sunflower seed, which it shelled with great dexterity. It learned to drink from our bird bath, and it attempted to extract the peanut butter mixture from holes in our hanging feeder, but its beak was quite unsuited to this and the attempt was soon abandoned. On March 9 or thereabouts the number of Purple Finches decreased noticeably at our feeding station, and it seems likely that the Crossbill wandered away in their company.—C. D. BEERS, 707 Gimghoul Rd., Chapel Hill, N. C.

**Redpolls at Spencer, N. C.**—On Feb. 19, 1952 I spent the night at Midway Court, Spencer, N. C., just east of the Salisbury city limits. On Wednesday morning, Feb. 20, I observed through a south window in the motor court a closely knit flock of approximately 20 Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria*) feeding in the short grass of the back lawn. The nearest birds were just outside the window, a distance of not over 10 feet. That morning the sky was clear. The court is built along an east-west line and the morning sun afforded excellent light to observe details of plumage. The birds were very actively engaged in feeding and so turning in all directions, thus affording views from all angles.—DONALD G. ALLISON, Game Management Speelialist, Raleigh, N. C.

**Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*).**—Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green's account of the January Field Trip to the S. C. coast (CHAT 16(1):16) recorded the observation of a Tree Sparrow by herself, Mrs. A. L. Guy, and Mrs. J. B. Whitener. Data not included in that account are added here for the record. The bird was studied at close range on Bull's Island, S. C., Jan. 26, 1952. The only previous record of a Tree Sparrow in S. C., as Mrs. Green noted, is to be found in Elliott Coues' list of 1868, titled *A Synopsis of the Birds of South Carolina*. Unfortunately, many of the listings in the *Synopsis* are not thought to be reliable, and among them is the Tree Sparrow. (See *South Carolina Bird Life*, p. 7)—Dept. Ed.

#### Briefs For The Files

**Redhead**, 3 at Rocky Mount., N. C., Nov. 4, 1951; first record for City Lake; J. W. E. Joyner . . . . Surf Scoter, approx. 200 on Pamlico River at Washington, N. C., daily between Mar. 2 and 9, 1952; Mrs. J. L. McLaurin. . . . Marsh Hawk, female at Mt. Olive, N. C., June 8, 1951; Robert Holmes, Jr. . . . Osprey, Caldwell Co., N. C., Mar. 22, 1952; M. E. Seehorn. . . . Purple Gallinule, Roanoke Rapids, N. C., April 21, 1951, captured and released; Drucilla Hodges and Omara Daniel. . . . Bewick's Wren, Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 27, 1952; Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. . . . Nashville Warbler, Rocky Mt., N. C., Mar. 25-26, 1952, at feeder; J. W. E. Joyner. . . . Common Yellowthroat, 2 at Zimmerman's Lake, Spartanburg, S. C., Feb. 6, and 10, 1952; Cannon, Correll, *et al*; Previous early record for area was Mar. 1, 1951, Cannon, . . . . Painted Bunting, male, Mt. Olive, N. C., July 1951. Approx. 70 miles inland; Robert Holmes, Jr. Also, the Painted Bunting listed in the Wilmington census Dec. 27, 1951 was collected by Robert Holmes, Jr. . . . Lark Sparrow, 1, Middle Sound, Wilmington, N. C., Mar. 8, 1952; Mrs. C. M. Appleberry, Mrs. Warwick Baker, Mrs. Jack Glisson; Third year for Lark Sparrows at Wilmington.—Dept. Ed.

## BOOKS

*A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia.* Joseph James Murray. 113 pp., paper-bound; unillustrated. \$1.50. Virginia Society of Ornithology, Box 445, Williamsburg, Va. 1952.

This is one of the state bird books of the newer kind which makes no attempt to describe either the birds or their habits. Rather it takes for granted that the bird student will have other books for this purpose, and that he wants to know the status of birds within Virginia.

The major part of the book is given over to brief but thorough discussions of the seasonal distribution and abundance of each of the 414 forms of birds that have been recorded within the State (398 species and subspecies, 14 hypothetical forms, and 2 hybrids). A valuable feature is the inclusion of migration dates, which have often been left out of state bird books in the past. The dates of earliest arrival and latest departure are given and to these are added the average dates for certain localities. The obvious advantage of this is that the bird student can evaluate his own field work and know when he has turned up something significant. Nesting data are also included—egg dates where these are known, otherwise records of nest building or young birds.

In the Introduction of 26 pages there is a history of Virginia ornithology, with quotations from early writers whose papers are not now readily available, and including a sketch of the Virginia Society of Ornithology which was organized in 1930. Of particular interest is a discussion of the faunal zones of Virginia, a field in which Dr. Murray is an authority.

While this is not a bird book that one would read merely for the pleasure, it is a book that should prove most useful, especially to people interested in the distribution of birds in the southeastern United States. It should be used together with the other books that have appeared during the past twenty years for the states from Maryland to Florida, inclusive.

The author of *Birds of Virginia* is minister of the Presbyterian Church of Lexington, Virginia; Editor of *The Raven*, the bulletin of the V. S. O.; for many years Secretary of the Board of the National Audubon Society; a Member of the American Ornithologists Union; and a careful and enthusiastic field worker. He is also author of *Wild Wings* and several other books.—JOHN GREY, JR., Williamsburg, Virginia, April 1, 1952.

*Birdlife of Virginia.* Joseph J. Shomon. 6" x 9" paper-covered bulletin, 88 pp., 7 color-plates, 63 photographs. 25 cents. Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond. 1951.

Contrary to its title, this is a well-written introduction to birds as such for school children, teachers, and "everyday citizens." The illustrations are superb and they alone are worth several times the price. There are not many available for out of the State, so only those who write early will receive a copy.—T. L. Q.

*Stalking Birds with Color Camera.* Arthur A. Allen. 328 pp.; illus. with 331 natural color photographs of 266 species of North American birds, mostly by the author. \$7.50. National Geographic Society, Wash., D. C. 1951.

*Birds of Newfoundland.* Harold S. Peters and Thomas D. Burleigh. 431 pp.; illus. with 32 color plates and 40 text figures by Roger Tory Peterson. \$6.00. Department of Natural Resources, St. John's Newfoundland. 1951.

*The History of American Ornithology Before Audubon.* Elsa Guerdrum Allen. 206 pp.; illus. \$2.00. American Philosophical Society, Phila. 6, Pa. 1951.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing **THE CHAT**, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from federal and state income and estate taxes.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and the out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular .....	\$1.00	Contributing .....	\$25.00
Supporting .....	\$5.00	Affiliated Club .....	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive **THE CHAT**. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to **THE CHAT**. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of **THE CHAT** will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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RALE

# THE CHAT

Bulletin of



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SEPTEMBER, 1952

Number 3



# THE CHAT

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SEPT., 1952

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## CONTENTS

The President's Page .....	49
Photographing The Kentucky Warbler. <i>Jack Dermid</i> .....	50
Fall Meeting Of Carolina Bird Club (Notice) .....	52
The 1952 Spring Count. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , editor .....	52
Backyard Birding. <i>Annie Rivers Faver</i> , editor .....	57
Among Our Members. <i>Charlotte Hilton Green</i> , editor .....	60
General Field Notes. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , editor .....	62
Cattle Egrets Along the Atlantic Coast .....	62
White-rumped Sandpipers .....	62
Fish Crow Captures Live Minnow.....	63
Barn Swallows Breeding in Alleghany and Watauga Counties, N. C. ....	63
Cedar Waxwing Depredation at Raleigh, N. C. ....	63
Kentucky Warbler Breeding on the S. C. Coast .....	64
Evening Grosbeaks in the Carolinas (concluded) .....	64
Briefs for the Files .....	65
The Coming Season For Hawk Watching In The Carolinas. <i>T. W. Simpson</i> .....	66
Membership List, C.B.C., 1952 .....	67

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*Cover Photograph*—Kentucky Warbler at nest, photographed by Jack Dermid at Smithfield, N. C., on June 14, 1952. Story and additional picture are on pages 50-51 of this issue. Publication of this rare and beautiful photograph has been made possible by the kind generosity of Mrs. A. W. Bachman of Henderson, N. C. Mrs. Bachman is especially interested in warblers and has done excellent work on warbler migration in the Henderson area.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Robert Overing

Carolina Bird Club field trips are important ornithologically and are stimulating individually for all who participate in them. Over the years North Carolina has been well-covered, from Pea Island to Fontana Dam, with Lake Mattamuskeet, Lumberton, and especially the Wilmington region furnishing excellent records and much enjoyment. South Carolina trips have been equally rewarding. Charleston

and Bull's Island on the coast provided unique experiences and hosts of birds. The trip to Paris Mountain at Greenville likewise was memorable.

Those of us who braved the midwinter cold at Pea Island, who poled through the alligator holes in Lennon's Marsh at Lumberton, and who suffered infestations of ticks at Bull's Island, think we can take anything. We are ready to tackle Stone Mountain near Elkin on the field trip this fall. In regard to the hawk studies, the Executive Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas W. Simpson has accepted the responsibility for directing this important CBC project, and we know that all of you will want to help in the search for the paths and extent of hawk movements through the Carolinas.

Had we not participated in the field trips, some of us may never have added to our life lists such rarities as Bachman's and Swainson's Warblers, Ravens, White Ibises, or Short-eared Owls, not to mention Painted Buntings, Gull-billed Terns, Gannets, and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and many others, depending upon the locations of our homes and limits of normal travel.

The close associations with the various Carolina Bird Club members and the mingling of kindred minds in the great out-of-doors are enriching and never-to-be forgotten experiences. We will exert every effort to make our future field trips as successful and rewarding as those of the past, and we hope that all members will continue to participate in the field trips whenever they can.

—Robert Overing

# PHOTOGRAPHING THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Story and Pictures by JACK DERMID

When Bill Hamnett of the Wildlife Resources Commission told me of a Kentucky Warbler's nest located in a park at Smithfield, North Carolina, I made immediate plans to photograph it. It was a lucky find, for the species is highly colorful, secretive in habit, and has relatively little recorded about its natural history.

On arriving at the nest on June 14, my wife and I were very disappointed to find all four nestlings gone. The nest, quite large and bulky for such a small bird to build, was constructed on the ground at the base of a single blackberry stalk amid a tangle of honeysuckle, poison ivy, and Virginia creeper. The condition of the ground cover was not natural since the forest floor had recently been brushed out by park workers. The site was in a hardwood forest characteristic of lowlands and barely fifty yards from the Neuse River. The nest itself was fashioned almost entirely from loblolly pine needles, which were old ones that had been gathered on the ground. They were coated with a layer of silt deposited by last winter's floods.

We hardly had time to appraise the nesting situation before both parents greeted us with flashing colors and a constant stream of alarm notes. The reason for their anxiety was soon evident. About three yards from the nest a young bird moved and revealed its position. Further searching revealed the location of another youngster. It was trying to follow one of the parents with tottering, clumsy steps, falling frequently in a confused heap. It was hard to believe the young warblers were old enough to leave the nest. They were practically naked, the bluish pin feathers on their wings and backs being opened only at the tips and resembling tiny paint brushes. They were still too weak to perch on a twig.

We placed the two young birds back in the nest, but it was quite a job keeping them there. Both were like a "jack-in-the-box" except they kept right on going. On several occasions the parent warblers flew in close in an apparent effort to lure their young away. Finally the nestlings became quiet, and Annie watched them while I returned to the car for photographic



equipment. She found another baby bird while I was gone. Now with three birds in the nest, with the camera set in position three feet away, and with cooperative parents, the prospect for photography looked good. The parents were so bold that we did not deem it necessary to hide from them; thus we moved only about ten yards away from the nest with the camera remote control box.

Not many minutes elapsed before the parents began coming to the nest readily and frequently. The chief difficulty in photographing them was tripping the shutter at the right instant to give a pleasing picture which was not blurred by movement. This was not always easy for the warblers were extremely active. The male flew very close to us several times, perching sideways on the trunk of a tree and cocking its head first to one side and then to the other. It was handsomely marked with olive-green above and bright yellow below. A black mask on each side of its head contrasted sharply with a yellow line that began at the bill and extended half-way around the eye. The parents chirped loudly and continuously while near the nest. At first both parents fed the young, then suddenly one parent quit coming to the nest, and the other came less frequently. Soon it stopped bringing food too, even though the young remained somewhat hungry.

After an hour or so of waiting for an adult bird to return to the nest, we discovered the reason for their absence. Another baby warbler was receiving all their attention. It was in a ditch some twenty-five yards away, and its parents were literally cramming it full of food. It was so full that several insects remained in its mouth unswallowed. We placed it in the nest, removing the insects from its mouth and feeding them to other nestlings during the process. Reaching the nest, the stuffed and contented youngster promptly went to sleep. It did not appear in future pictures, but the parents immediately resumed their visits to the nest.

It was not long before enough pictures had been taken for our needs, and we left highly satisfied. It is not very often that a wildlife photographer has such cooperative subjects.—*Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, N. C., July 10, 1952.*

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Going home from school one afternoon, I saw a tiny bird of striking colors and odd pattern in the undergrowth along an old stone wall. The bird was a mixture of green, brown, reddish-chestnut, white and gold. The gold came in a patch on top of its head. I was entranced by the bird. When I saw it there three or four afternoons in succession, I suspected that it had a nest in the vicinity, so I went on my hands and knees among the bushes and found the nest—with four eggs, I think—just a few feet above the ground. Later, after I had purchased Chapman's *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America*, I learned that my beautiful little bird was the Chestnut-sided Warbler.—JOHN KIERAN.

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I heard the croaking note of some bird in the woods close at hand, a harsh note that I did not recognize. I grabbed my field glasses and went on a hunt in the dim light. Just as I caught the bird in my field glasses, it began to sing—and I nearly dropped my field glasses in astonishment. At the first few notes of its rising roulade, I knew that it was a Hermit Thrush! Though I had known the bird many years as a migrant in our neighborhood, this was my introduction to its vocal powers.—JOHN KIERAN.

## Announcement Of Fall Meeting Of The Carolina Bird Club

The annual fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club will be held at Roaring Gap, N. C., on September 26-27-28, 1952. Headquarters will be at the Albert Butler Y.M.C.A. Camp, and field trips will be conducted to various nearby points along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The special feature of this meeting will be the hawk migration project, described on page 66 of this issue.

The Saturday night program will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner, following which the all-day bird tally will be made. Douglas Wade, of Clemson College, will show his color movies of Peregrine Falcon nesting. Fred Behrend, of Elizabethton, Tennessee, will be the main speaker of the evening. His address, "Hawk Migration In The Southern Appalachians," promises much of interest and value to CBC members, and is based on recent work by members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Further details of the meeting and accommodations are in the *Newsletters*. The general chairman is Mr. Linville Hendren, and all inquiries should be addressed to him, at Elkin, N. C. Reservations for the dinner may be made or cancelled until September 25. It is important that dinner reservations be accompanied by the \$2.00 per plate cost.—T.L.Q.

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## THE 1952 SPRING COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Department Editor*

The Spring Count was taken in 12 localities in 1952. Last spring only 9 localities reported. Even with the added communities this year, however, 8 fewer species were recorded than were found last year (200 vs. 208). The lower count was due partly to the comparatively low score for Wilmington—143 this year against 168 species last year. Bad weather was the cause of the reduced Wilmington count, there being no other evidence that the population was off. Unfortunately, Greenville did not record individuals, and some of the Greensboro parties failed to record them also, making overall individual counts impossible.

A few species are noteworthy. White-rumped Sandpipers at Greensboro were unusual, and are commented upon elsewhere. At Wilmington, Bob Holmes identified an Alder Flycatcher and 2 Cliff Swallows; Mrs. Mebane found a Warbling Vireo; and Cecil Appleberry saw Swainson's Warbler again. At Chapel Hill, 8 Evening Grosbeaks were still on hand for the count on May 3. Also at Chapel Hill, a Baltimore Oriole was seen on May 4. The Philadelphia Vireo at Chapel Hill was watched at length by Coit Coker who also heard it sing.—B.R.C.

### DATA ON THE COUNTS

BEAUFORT, N. C.—Pivers Island, Shark Shoal, Bird Shoal, Bogue Bank from Fort Macon to Salter Path. May 24; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; weather warm and fair. May 25; 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; cloudy with showers. Five miles on foot; 30 by car; 6 by boat. Attention directed to shorebirds particularly. (Least Tern eggs were hatching, and Black Skimmers were nesting on Bird Shoal and Shark Shoal. Some eggs appeared to be those of Common Tern). One party: Paul J. Kramer (compiler), Richard Kramer, Glen Neglay.

WILMINGTON, N. C.—Area same as in the Christmas census of the past several years. Apr. 26; 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast with light rain in p.m. Fourteen observers in 6 parties. Coverage not as good as usual. Cecil Appleberry, Edna Appleberry (compiler), Mary Baker, J. A. Bodine, Clifford Commeau, Annie Herbst, Bob Holmes, Polly Mebane, Nadine Murray, Harold Olsen, Mrs. Key Scales, Don and Lois Stroud, Julia Theobald, Mary Urich, Mrs. H. VanderSchalie.

EASTOVER, S. C.—Christmas census area, including boat trip on the Old River into Congaree Swamp. Apr. 16; fair and warm; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Two in party; Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Mrs. W. H. Faver (compiler). A count in this area on Apr. 26 by the same observers included 32 common species not noted on the 16th.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.—Essentially same area as in last 21 years. Six mile radius including University Lake and campus, outlying farms and airport. May 3; dawn to dusk. Clear and sunny. Temp. 55 to 79 degrees. Seventeen observers in 12 parties. Total party hours 50. Total party miles 72 (35 on foot, 37 by car). Douglas Atack, Bill Ayeock, W. L. McAtee, Bud Moon, Mark Orr, Mrs. W. D. Patterson, Philips Russell, Mildred Sharpe, Bob Spearman, Sue Thompson, Edmund Taylor, Adelaide Walters, Coit Coker, Lucile Gault (compiler), Boh Holmes, Bill James, Joe Jones.

AIKEN, S. C.—Same area as in 1951 Christmas count. Apr. 27; 5:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rain from noon to 2 p.m. Overcast most of day. Temp. 58 to 66 degrees. Ground very wet. One observer: William Post, Jr. Twelve miles on foot.

RALEIGH, N. C.—Area same as in Christmas census. Apr. 26; dawn to dusk. Cloudy in a.m., showers in p.m. Temp. 50 to 65 degrees. Fifteen observers in 7 parties. Rod Amundson, Gladys Currin, Marjorie Essick, W. L. Hamnett, Glen Hampton, Mabel Jones, Hayden, Helen, and Donald Olds, Rachel O. Schepkowski, A. S. Smith, E. W. and John Winkler, D. L. Wray (compiler), Ethel Wray.

DURHAM, N. C.—Same area as in past years. Duke University campus and surrounding forest, southwest 3 miles to Hollow Rock, country roads west and northwest, Elerby Creek lowlands. About 50 per cent open land, pasture and marsh; 50 per cent forest, pine and mixed hardwoods. May 10; 5:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. One party, 3 observers. Five miles on foot, 25 by car. Paul J. Kramer (compiler), Richard Kramer, Peter Nielsen.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Essentially same area as in the Christmas counts, adding Queens College campus. May 10; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, rain in p.m. Ten observers in 3 parties. Miss Clara Burt, Norman Chamberlain (compiler), Mrs. E. O. Clarkson, Leeds Cushman, Mrs. B. D. Hendrix, Miss Anne Locke, Miss Sarah Nooe, Mrs. George Potter, Bill Smith, Olin Wearn.

GREENVILLE, S. C.—Christmas census area. May 3; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 4; 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fair and hot. Light wind. Ten observers in two parties. About 38 party hours. Twelve miles on foot, 200 by car. Mrs. E. C. Crumpton, Miss Gladys Hart, Miss Rosa Lee Hart, P. M. Jenness (compiler), Miss May Puett, F. W. Shackelford, Stanley Smith, D. A. and E. S. Tillinghast, L. C. Tolleson.

GREENSBORO, N. C.—Area about the same as last year. Deciduous and pine woodlands 25 per cent, open fields 25 per cent, marsh and thicket 15 per cent, fresh water lakes 25 per cent, campus and city yards 10 per cent. May 4; 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Temp. 51 to 85 degrees. Thirty-five observers in 15 parties. Tabulated figures of individuals observed are less than actual number seen since two parties reported only species seen. John Carr, Inez Coldwell, Evelyn Cole, Macie Collins, Mrs. Hugh Craft, Larry Crawford, Dr. Charlotte Dawley, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Granby, Sidney Holmes, Hilda Harpster, W. S. James, Eugene LeBauer, Ann Locke, Sarah Leslie, Barbara Mallard, Ethel McNairy, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Medford, John A. McLeod, Jr. (compiler), Ida Mitchell, Oscar Parris, Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Hollis Rogers, Edith Settan, Etta Schiffman, Archie D. Shaftesbury, George A. Smith, Thomas E. Street, Hal Strickland, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Swart, Margaret Wall.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—Same area as in Christmas counts. Apr. 25; 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Rain and cool. Temp. 49 to 52 degrees. Ten miles on foot, 100 by car. Seven observers in 2 parties. Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Buckner, H. M. Magie, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson, R. N. White, R. H. Witherington (compiler).

LENOIR, N. C.—Same area as on Christmas counts. May 4; dawn to dusk; mild, sunny, light wind. Ten observers in 5 parties. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer, Miss Margaret Harper, Cary Harrison, F. H. May (compiler), Mrs. F. H. May, Tom Parks, Miss Rose Powell.

SPECIES	Beaufort	Wilmington	Eastover	Chapel Hill	Aiken	Raleigh	Durham	Charlotte	Greenville	Greensboro	Winston-Salem	Lenoir
Common Loon .....		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horned Grebe .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pied-billed Grebe .....	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown Pelican .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gannet .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cormorant .....	7	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Water-Turkey .....		2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Blue Heron .....	12	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
American Egret .....	8	18	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Snowy Egret .....	7	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Louisiana Heron .....	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Little Blue Heron .....		6	1	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	4	..
Green Heron .....	4	4	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..
Black-crowned Night Heron .....		2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Yellow-crowned Night Heron .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Bittern .....		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Canada Goose .....		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Mallard .....	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue-winged Teal .....		..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck .....		2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Ring-necked Duck .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Seaup Duck .....		16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-breasted Merganser .....		15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey Vulture .....	2	6	..	12	..	1	4	4	4	..	30	..
Black Vulture .....		3	8	2	1	20	..	..	5	..	7	..
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....		..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cooper's Hawk .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Red-tailed Hawk .....		..	..	5	..	4	..	..	..	..	2	1
Red-shouldered Hawk .....		2	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
Broad-winged Hawk .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Bald Eagle .....		7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Marsh Hawk .....		..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Osprey .....		6	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	2	2
Sparrow Hawk .....		1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bob-white .....		15	..	25	..	16	7	2	..	70	1	2
King Rail .....		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clapper Rail .....	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Florida Gallinule .....		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coot .....		35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Oyster-catcher .....	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Semipalmated Plover .....	2	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilson's Plover .....	31	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Killdeer .....		16	..	10	..	9	..	..	..	..	7	..
Black-bellied Plover .....		13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Turnstone .....	71	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilson's Snipe .....		11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Hudsonian Curlew .....		6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upland Plover .....		..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spotted Sandpiper .....		8	..	9	1	8	2	..	..	42	18	1
Solitary Sandpiper .....		4	..	2	..	1	9	..	..	19	..	..
Willet .....		200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greater Yellow-legs .....		5	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..
Lesser Yellow-legs .....		8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Knot .....	70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purple Sandpiper .....		3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-rumped Sandpiper .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Least Sandpiper .....		5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-backed Sandpiper .....	4	70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Semipalmated Sandpiper .....	6	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sanderling .....		21	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull .....	69	300	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	..
Ring-billed Gull .....		..	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laughing Gull .....	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bonaparte's Gull .....		2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Forster's Tern .....		11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Tern .....		35	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Least Tern .....	200	200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royal Tern .....	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

SPECIES	Beaufort	Wilmington	Eastover	Chapel Hill	Aiken	Raleigh	Durham	Charlotte	Greenville	Greensboro	Winston-Salem	Lenoir	
Black Tern	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Black Skimmer	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113	7	20	
Mourning Dove	5	26	3	60	8	19	9	25	..	..	..	..	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	..	2	..	2	..	1	2	1	..	13	..	2	
Black-billed Cuckoo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	
Screech Owl	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	
Great Horned Owl	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Barred Owl	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	4	..	2	
Chuck-will's-widow	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	8	..	1	
Whip-poor-will	..	..	..	5	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	
Nighthawk	3	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	12	2	1	
Chimney Swift	5	6	35	160	11	32	71	4	..	137	15	5	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	1	10	..	3	2	7	..	..	8	..	1	
Belted Kingfisher	..	6	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	
Flicker	11	1	15	..	4	19	1	9	..	65	5	4	
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	2	18	..	5	3	2	1	..	14	..	1	
Red-headed Woodpecker	..	8	..	6	4	16	..	..	..	11	1	..	
Hairy Woodpecker	2	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	
Downy Woodpecker	..	5	..	16	..	1	3	5	..	20	2	4	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Eastern Kingbird	..	5	..	39	3	6	16	1	..	36	4	..	
Crested Flycatcher	21	..	30	10	3	15	15	15	..	65	1	..	
Phoebe	1	..	..	23	..	2	9	18	..	35	4	3	
Acadian Flycatcher	..	2	..	4	..	..	13	..	..	28	..	..	
Alder Flycatcher	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Least Flycatcher	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	
Wood Pewee	..	3	..	28	2	..	19	6	..	40	2	2	
Horned Lark	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	
Tree Swallow	..	7	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Bank Swallow	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Rough-winged Swallow	..	9	..	8	..	6	7	..	..	12	11	18	
Barn Swallow	35	..	4	..	..	11	..	..	..	4	3	..	
Cliff Swallow	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Purple Martin	2	65	..	48	..	5	2	..	..	95	..	2	
Blue Jay	1	35	..	55	16	33	13	40	..	121	13	17	
Crow	..	19	..	51	7	28	7	15	..	73	19	6	
Fish Crow	1	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Carolina Chickadee	..	32	4	55	3	13	7	15	..	89	9	5	
Tufted Titmouse	..	18	6	48	3	24	6	30	..	73	6	2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	..	..	..	20	1	2	..	3	..	19	2	4	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	..	30	..	12	..	2	1	6	..	7	..	..	
House Wren	..	3	1	14	2	7	5	15	..	62	13	6	
Winter Wren	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Carolina Wren	..	42	5	51	..	27	17	20	..	85	10	9	
Long-billed Marsh Wren	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Short-billed Marsh Wren	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Mockingbird	7	29	4	32	8	30	17	34	..	104	11	4	
Catbird	..	17	..	57	1	19	20	40	..	99	19	15	
Brown Thrasher	3	14	3	21	9	18	8	26	..	63	10	7	
Robin	..	10	..	48	1	60	32	80	..	228	55	21	
Wood Thrush	..	5	..	60	5	30	40	23	..	184	5	8	
Hermit Thrush	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	
Olive-backed Thrush	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Veery	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	
Bluebird	3	20	6	59	1	42	13	14	..	25	14	14	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	..	31	8	13	2	6	4	..	..	19	1	1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	..	..	3	1	..	
Cedar Waxwing	..	18	..	19	14	31	17	20	..	89	52	12	
Loggerhead Shrike	..	5	6	3	..	4	..	3	..	10	..	..	
Starling	..	100	50	8	37	9	200	61	30	..	161	32	13
White-eyed Vireo	..	17	1	14	2	10	3	3	..	16	5	2	
Yellow-throated Vireo	..	5	1	16	1	6	1	2	..	21	5	2	
Blue-headed Vireo	..	1	..	5	..	1	12	..	..	9	..	..	
Red-eyed Vireo	..	13	1	118	17	14	36	27	..	89	4	2	
Philadelphia Vireo	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Warbling Vireo	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

SPECIES	Beaufort	Wilmington	Eastover	Chapel Hill	Aiken	Raleigh	Durham	Charlotte	Greenville	Greensboro	Winston-Salem	Lenoir
Black & White Warbler .....	2	..	7	3	3	2	1	—	11	3	2	..
Prothonotary Warbler .....	18	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Swainson's Warbler .....	1	..	4	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Worm-eating Warbler .....	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Golden-winged Warbler .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Blue-winged Warbler .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nashville Warbler .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Parula Warbler .....	38	7	17	3	9	3	5	—	21	1	2	..
Yellow Warbler .....	6	..	7	2	4	8	3	—	23	9	8	..
Magnolia Warbler .....	..	..	4	..	4	3	..	..	2	..	..	..
Cape May Warbler .....	..	..	14	6	1	..	4	—	25	..	5	..
Black-throated Blue Warbler .....	1	1	5	1	2	12	4	—	8	..	..	..
Myrtle Warbler .....	24	33	202	12	53	..	3	—	36	6	2	..
Black-throated Green Warbler .....	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Blackburnian Warbler .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Yellow-throated Warbler .....	36	..	22	..	9	8	..	—	37	5	2	..
 Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	—	3	..	..
Black-poll Warbler .....	2	..	15	2	..	11	25	—	15	..	..	..
Pine Warbler .....	8	3	23	3	7	3	6	—	54	5	..	..
Prairie Warbler .....	5	12	..	33	1	17	16	3	58	8	3	..
Palm Warbler .....	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Oven-bird .....	..	..	22	4	4	7	..	—	49	3	2	..
Northern Water-Thrush .....	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Louisiana Water-Thrush .....	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	12	..	..	..
Kentucky Warbler .....	3	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..
Yellow-throat .....	9	..	29	3	18	20	4	—	62	6	3	..
Yellow-breasted Chat .....	1	..	53	..	8	6	2	—	47	4	2	..
Hooded Warbler .....	6	..	16	4	14	12	..	—	41	3	..	..
Canada Warbler .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Redstart .....	2	2	20	5	10	56	3	—	74	3	4	..
House Sparrow .....	20	100	37	34	21	90	58	130	—	202	15	13
Bobolink .....	..	75	..	50	210	..	..	—	20	..	..	..
 Eastern Meadowlark .....	2	30	10	64	3	21	13	5	—	89	13	2
Red-winged Blackbird .....	8	150	6	81	1	59	27	..	—	163	5	2
Orchard Oriole .....	1	18	2	2	..	1	1	1	—	2	..	2
Baltimore Oriole .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
Rusty Blackbird .....	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Boat-tailed Grackle .....	41	65	..	..	42	1	1	10	—	36	2	5
Purple Grackle .....	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cowbird .....	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
Scarlet Tanager .....	..	..	17	3	1	..	..	..	..	23	1	2
Summer Tanager .....	..	21	..	46	4	2	10	10	—	41	4	1
Cardinal .....	16	50	8	140	19	50	34	65	—	198	35	14
Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Blue Grosbeak .....	..	5	..	11	4	..	2	1	—	14	..	..
Indigo Bunting .....	1	8	..	22	..	..	13	4	—	65	..	2
Painted Bunting .....	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Evening Grosbeak .....	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
 Purple Finch .....	..	..	..	58	..	..	10	8	..	90	..	9
Pine Siskin .....	..	..	..	..	..	65	13	5	—	280	124	11
Goldfinch .....	7	5	122	..	..	17	9	19	—	134	27	5
Towhee .....	4	100	..	23	4	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Savannah Sparrow .....	..	35	..	13	2	4	..	..	..	13	1	..
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	..	..	..	6	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Henslow's Sparrow .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Seaside Sparrow .....	6	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bachman's Sparrow .....	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Slate-colored Junco .....	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..
Chipping Sparrow .....	..	50	7	92	14	40	14	25	—	198	16	3
Field Sparrow .....	..	11	..	63	10	54	2	10	—	98	5	2
White-crowned Sparrow .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
White-throated Sparrow .....	..	18	10	91	14	73	10	10	—	160	14	30
Swamp Sparrow .....	..	2	..	3	..	8	..	..	..	7	1	..
Song Sparrow .....	..	3	..	6	..	6	2	1	—	21	5	15
 TOTAL SPECIES .....	46	143	43	110	57	93	76	69	92	123	72	65

# BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, *Department Editor*

Eastover, South Carolina

As soon as the nesting season is past, some birds begin to move slowly southward. This is a much more gradual migration than the spring movement, when the birds pass through our yards so swiftly that we can hardly do more than catch a glimpse of them. Now their nesting duties are behind them and, with their young that are often in immature plumage, some of our most interesting warblers may pause to spend several days or a week or so. The Redstarts are usually the first to arrive. Then watch for the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers. By the way, if you do find these last two in your yard, contact all friends near you who are also interested in bird study and give them the opportunity of watching these birds too. They are among the more elusive of our warblers, and many people would be glad to travel a good many miles for the privilege of adding them to their life lists. The rare Kirtland's Warbler has visited our yard only during September and October. So be on the lookout for these unusual birds this fall, and help add more interesting facts to the records for the Carolinas.—A.R.F.

As the time again draws near for the opening of our public schools, cannot we as members of the Carolina Bird Club make it our responsibility to see that the children in our neighborhood are given the opportunity of becoming members of an Audubon Junior Club? The National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, New York, offers such a wealth of material and information on all phases of nature study that it is a shame that so little is known of it in the South, particularly in rural areas. Those of us who like working with children can act as leaders of Clubs, with our backyard sanctuaries as our work-shops. If you prefer not to do this, or if for any reason you are unable to do so,

then talk to a teacher or the principal of your local school and tell him of the interesting leaflets and wonderful Teachers' Guide that can be ordered at such small cost from the Society. I have found that children of grammar school age are most intrigued by the wonders of the world around us. Education is an essential element in conservation. Let us see that our southern children get this education.—A.R.F.

While you are talking to the teachers and principals, why not invite them to join the Carolina Bird Club? Wouldn't it be nice if every public school library had a subscription (\$1.00 per year) to *The Chat!*—A.R.F.

The *Picture Primer of Attracting Birds*, with the text by C. Russell Mason and illustrations by Bob Hines (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, \$2.50), has recently made its appearance in the book stores in our neighborhood. This is a highly condensed book giving all possible means of attracting song birds to our home grounds. Since we are so concerned about developing our backyard sanctuaries, there is much in this small volume that we will find both instructive and interesting. The Foreword deals with the benefits to be had from bird-watching. The first section introduces Peterson's two Field Guides, and stresses correct identification of all birds.

No matter what section of the country we live in, we can find suggestions for plantings of trees, shrubs, vines, and ground cover to furnish shelter and food for all birds in our particular area. Various types of nesting boxes and feeding stations are shown, and their outstanding qualifications listed. Blossoms that are especially attractive to Hummingbirds are pictured in color on two pages that also show an artificial feeder, with directions for its use.

A page on making the small pond appealing to water-fowl was intensely interesting to me, also the discussion of planting flowers and seed-bearing grains and grasses to offer a food supply for fall migrants. Then we are told how to care for the plantings in order to get the best results for our efforts. The last section contains the suggestion of combining two or more backyard sanctuaries and establishing a winding "Nature Trail." This project combines general nature study with bird watching, and is of great benefit to both adults and children. A person would really have a model sanctuary if he could carry out in his home grounds all the ideas included in this book.

—A.R.F.

Since few of us ever have the opportunity of watching a Brown-headed Nuthatch in our backyards, we are grateful to Mrs. F. H. Horlbeck for the following account:

On March 5, 1952, in a wet pine barren just off old Dorchester Road near Bacon's Bridge, Charleston, S. C., four of us watched, for about 30 minutes, a Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) excavating a nest-hole in a dead pine stump. There were three holes—the highest about the size of a quarter and near the top of the 10-foot stump, the other two larger and about seven feet from the ground. The bird had flown from the second hole when we first noticed it, but the rest of the time it worked at the lowest hole exclusively. Sometimes the bird was on the outside of the rim, pecking out the soft wood; other times it was invisible inside the excavation. Each time it pecked out a piece of wood it came to the opening, leaned out, and tossed the debris clear. When inside, pecking on a hard piece of wood, the noise it made was astonishingly loud for so small a bird. While this one bird worked steadily, the other flitted unceasingly about in a nearby tall sparkleberry bush, but did not help, at least while we were observing. At no time did we hear a call or song.

*La Grange, N. C.*—We have a feeder and a bird bath in the back yard and it was very interesting to

observe the bird life there this spring of 1952. The residents were a pair of Mockingbirds, a pair of Cardinals, a pair of Carolina Chickadees, a pair of Tufted Titmice, several Purple Grackles and Blue Jays, a few House Sparrows and Starlings (these birds were abundant a few years ago, I wonder what has become of them), and a pair of Carolina Wrens. These were all daily visitors, the Jays and Grackles from two to five or six in number, the Mockingbirds and Cardinals one or two, the Chickadees and Titmice nearly always in pairs, and the Wren usually by itself. Occasional Robins and Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers were seen. The Winter residents, White-throated and Fox Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos, were noted until about March 10. On March 10 two of our summer residents—Catbird and Brown Thrasher—were seen and in a few days I noted pairs of them. On April 8 I saw a male Cardinal feeding a young one at the feeder, and the Carolina Wrens were busy hunting food for their babies which were still in the nest though about grown. The Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Mockingbirds were gathering material for their nests which were placed in the shrubbery in the yard. About this time I noticed a pair of Crested Flycatchers building in a box on top of a fence post. On April 14 I saw a pair of Orchard Orioles; they built in a tree just outside the yard and a pair of Robins built in another tree just outside the yard. On April 20 I saw Carolina Wrens carrying material for a new nest placed not far from the first one. On April 30 there were young birds in the nests of the Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Crested Flycatchers. By the 10th of June the Robins and Orioles had hatched. From then on there was not much nesting. The time was occupied by feeding the young birds.—DR. J. W. P. SMITHWICK, July 7, 1952.

*Aynor, S. C.*—Our backyard sanctuary includes also the adjoining backyard of my daughter. The space which lies mainly between the two houses is wooded

with tall pines, one large hickory, some oaks, wax myrtle and dogwood. These trees and the various planted shrubs provide some natural foods to supplement the daily ration placed upon the shelf feeder. The hickory nuts are stored in autumn, and a few are cracked each morning and added to the food mixture throughout the winter. The hundreds of Cedar Waxwings that stop over during spring migration feast on the berries of the holly and other shrubs. I plant a row of sunflowers in the vegetable garden each year. They grow well in this soil, and the seeds are fine to add to the bird food mixture at any and all times of the year.

This season I tried a new type of bird house, which the Tufted Titmouse used. I had never been able to attract Titmice as tenants before. Last winter I sent one dollar to the Stoddard Products Company, Inc., 66 Amity Road, New Haven 15, Connecticut, and received three "Kleen-nest Bird Houses" (made of waxed box-board). I put them up in early

spring, and a pair of Titmice accepted one on March 27. That brood left the box on May 8. Another box was taken later in May and the brood left it on June 25, a late date for the Tufted Titmouse here.

A backyard sanctuary is not only good for the birds, but is also good for children. My little grandson, who is not yet three years old, likes to go with me to put out food and water for the birds. He takes scratchfeed in his little sand pail and scatters it on the ground for the Towhees and sparrows that like to feed there. He can identify a Cardinal or a Blue Jay on sight, and a Dove or Bob-white on hearing its call in the distance.

Last, but by no means least, is my "nature nook," a small building in the sanctuary where I keep my bird books, magazines, collections of nests, some eggs, a few snakes in alcohol, etc. These things are used in an effort to lead the children in the neighborhood to an appreciation of the creatures and things of the out-of-doors.—MRS. G. E. CHARLES, July 1, 1952.

Mrs. G. E. Charles and grandson



# AMONG OUR MEMBERS

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN, *Department Editor*

3320 White Oak Road, Raleigh, N. C.

Our PRESIDENTIAL FAMILY news is that Mrs. Robert Overing—"Willella" to all C.B.C. members—is recovering from a major operation at Duke Hospital and straining at doctor's orders of "no activities." She had planned to take her girl scouts on an Appalachian Trail hike. Son Edwin, a chemist with Monsanto Chemical Corporation, Dayton, Ohio, is taking a group of boy scouts on a week's hike on said trail. Daughter Vinal, of W.C. U.N.C., is a junior counselor and archery teacher at Camp La-Pi-Hio, one of the girl scout camps at Crabtree State Park. Daughter Joanna is taking the music course at Needham Broughton High mornings and dramatics at Wiley School several afternoons a week. And President Robert, though faced with all this activity, still hopes they can squeeze in a family trek to home-state Nebraska!

FRED SAMPLE, of the COLUMBIA, S. C. BIRD CLUB, reported that they found having their April and May meetings as combined "Bird Walk-Picnics" most satisfactory, with large and enthusiastic attendance, so they pass on the idea. One was held at his home, seven miles from Columbia, the other at the home of MRS. P. B. HENDRIX, in Lexington County.

EVELYN HENDRICKS, Nash County's "Wheel Chair Naturalist Become Research Worker," is featured in a long illustrated article in the August-September *Nature Magazine*. Eminent and nationally-known doctors are interested in this research work on arthritis and heredity, initiated by Evelyn, who is also one of North Carolina's best amateur naturalists.

INGLIS FLETCHER, of Bandon Plantation, Edenton, whose meticulous research for her famous historical novels has made the country conscious of the importance of the Albemarle section of North Caro-

lina in Colonial times, will have a new novel, *Queen's Gift*, out in October. This is of the period of the troubrous times between Federalists and anti-Federalists. Bandon, with its ancient trees and half-mile frontage on the Chowan River, makes an excellent Bird Sanctuary.

MEBANE HOLOMAN BURGWYN, of Jackson, N. C., charming young mother of "four children and three books," will have her latest juvenile book, *Penny Rose*, out some time in the fall. Like the others, *River Treasure* and *Lucky Mischief*, the setting is the Occoneechee Neck of the Roanoke River.

DR. AND MRS. D. W. STROUD (he has been with the Army at Camp Lejeune), whom many will recall pleasantly from the Spring Field Trip at Fort Caswell, have moved to Manchester, Conn., and opened general practice offices. They will retain their membership in C.B.C. and hope to join us sometime for a field trip.

Another loss is MARY and AL GUY, who are leaving in early September for Purdue, Ill., where Professor Guy will teach in the University. From the beginning Mary has been a popular, able and efficient member of C.B.C., having served as secretary in 1950 and chairman of the Spring Field Trip to Fort Caswell and Southport this year. Our affection goes with you, Mary and Al, and a wish for good birding in your new home. And come back, whenever you can.

The DR. RICHARD L. WEAVERS are leaving North Carolina in September, having lived in Chapel Hill and Raleigh since 1947. Dick will be Associate Professor of Conservation at the University of Michigan and Florence will teach a seventh grade at Ypsilanti. Dick has been Advisor in Resource-use Education for the N. C. Dept. of Public Instruction, working with teachers to encourage greater em-



DR. RICHARD L. WEAVER

phasis on conservation and outdoor education in the public schools. His new position will give him an opportunity to continue such work with teachers-in-service and to help set up a pre-service curriculum for graduate students desiring to become leaders in conservation education. We will miss the Weavers and the contributions they have made to our Club. They tell us that it is with great reluctance that they leave their many friends in the Carolinas and that they will look forward to returning occasionally for a field trip or an annual meeting. Dick says, "We cannot hope to find a more friendly or a more active group of bird friends in any part of this country. I feel most fortunate in having been able to help enlarge the scope of *The Chat* and in interesting new members in the Club."

The new officers of the Winston-Salem Bird Club are: P—Robert Witherington; V-P—Mrs. C. L. Buckner; S-T—Mrs. Ellyn Beatty.

The new GASTON COUNTY BIRD CLUB got off to an excellent start when a group of 28 Gaston County people especially interested in birds

met and organized on April 28, 1952. Each charter member also became a member of the Carolina Bird Club at the same time! A brief business meeting was held, officers elected, and plans for programs and field trips discussed, followed by a film strip on birds' nests. Officers are: P—Miss Faye McIntosh; V-P—Mrs. Gladys Haynie; S—Miss Margaret Woodward; T—Mrs. Becke Cauble; Pro. Ch.—Wilton P. Mitchell; Pub. Ch.—Miss Lorene Beatty.

The new officers for the TRYON BIRD CLUB are: P—Mrs. T. S. Clark; V-P—Mrs. C. E. Dimick; S—Miss Elizabeth D. James; T—Mrs. H. Lan Moore; Mem. Ch.—Mrs. Thomas Nash.

The new officers for the LENOIR AUDUBON CLUB are: P—Mr. Tom Parks; V-P—Mrs. R. C. Powell; S-T—Mrs. J. B. Bernard.

The new officers of the HENDERSON BIRD CLUB are: P—Mrs. S. R. Harris; V-P—Mrs. G. E. Rose; S-T—Mrs. T. C. Gill.

The new officers of the CHARLES-TON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY are: P—R. H. Coleman; V-P—T. A. Beckett; S—Miss Caroline Wilbur; T—Miss Louise Perry.

The new officers for the ROANOKE RAPIDS BIRD CLUB are: P—Mrs. Fannie Hayes; V-P & Pro. Chm.—Mr. Stanley White; S-T—Miss Omara Daniel.

Personal news of the editor of this department is that she will be doing some writing and "outdoor exploring and grist gathering" at Huckleberry Mountain Workshop, near Hendersonville, N. C., in July; drive north in August, through the Shenandoah Valley and Monticello to Ithaca and Cornell University; then to western New York and Lake Erie for family visiting, and finally back to Carolina. Late September and early October are reserved for a 20-day Mississippi River Cruise to New Orleans and back; this should be the time to see some fall migration, which ought to be interesting from a slow-moving river cruiser.

# GENERAL FIELD NOTES

## *Advisory Council:*

E. B. Chamberlain  
Charleston, S. C.

Robert Overing  
Raleigh, N. C.

Arthur Stupka  
Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Robert Holmes, Jr.  
Mt. Olive, N. C.

Thomas Simpson, M.D.  
Winston-Salem, N. C.

Robert L. Wolff  
Greenville, N. C.

*Department Editor:* B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions. Dates may be given in any style, but in every case the MONTH must be represented by at least THREE LETTERS.—B.R.C.

**Cattle Egrets Along the Atlantic Coast.**—Anyone who keeps up with current ornithological happenings cannot but have been greatly interested in the occurrence of the Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*) in the northeast Atlantic Coast region. The first bird, which appeared at Wayland, Mass., in April, 1952, was collected and identified as the African form. It is thought that individuals of it were shipped, some time ago, to British Guiana. At any rate, others were seen later in New England, and since then have appeared at other points along the eastern seaboard. Two at Cape May, N. J., were seen by "an army of observers" in late May or early June, 1952.

The writer has recently been informed by one of his correspondents who is furnishing data for the revision of Howell's *Florida Birdlife*, on which the writer is now engaged, that he saw about ten Cattle Egrets on June 1, 1952, on the west shore of Lake Okeechobee, Glades County, Florida! This observer is Louis A. Stimson of Miami, one of the keenest field men in Florida.

The point of this note is to ask that all observers in the Carolinas be on the lookout for these strange egrets. It is entirely possible that it will be reported before this note appears, but those familiar with the Snowy Egret would not be apt to examine specimens of this species with any particular care. It will pay one to do so!

The Cattle Egret is somewhat smaller than the Snowy, is white, with a brownish wash on the crown and upper breast, and with a *yellow bill* and *yellow legs*. This should be sufficient to identify it at once. The Florida birds were with cattle, as were some of the northern specimens. Where these birds are coming from no one seems to know as yet, and it is a considerable mystery, though an exciting one! Every effort should be made to secure a specimen if seen, in order to establish the occurrence beyond question.—  
*ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. C., July 12, 1952.*

**White-rumped Sandpipers.**—A flock of 14 White-rumped Sandpipers visited the private lake of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Medford at Greensboro, N. C., Apr. 24, 1952, and were watched by a number of people. Four of this species were counted on the Spring census at Greensboro on May 4, 1952. They were not reported elsewhere in the interior of the Carolinas this year, but the inland spring movement may have been larger than is indicated since a specimen was collected and 3 others were seen at Atlanta, Ga., May 17, 1952, by W. W. Griffin. This is an uncommon transient even on our coast.—  
*Dept. Ed.*

**Fish Crow Captures Live Minnow.**—On the afternoon of April 18, 1952, 2 Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) were seen to join a flock of Royal Terns in flight about the pier at Caswell Beach (Brunswick Co., N. C.). One circled down close to the surface of the water, hovered with feet dangling for a few seconds, and then dipped its beak quickly into the water. It brought out a small, wriggling minnow which it carried over to the beach and ate. I do not recall seeing Fish Crows capture live minnows on the wing in this manner.—THOMAS W. SIMPSON, M. D., Winston-Salem, N. C. [A. C. Bent, *Life Histories of N. A. Jays, Crows, and Titmice* (1946), mentions the likelihood that Fish Crows eat live fish, but cites no instances—Dept. Ed.]

**Barn Swallows Breeding in Alleghany and Watauga Counties, N. C.**—A post card from Linville L. Hendren dated July 8, 1952, and a 'phone call, informed me that he and his wife had found two nests of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) a few miles north of Roaring Gap, N. C., July 6, 1952, and that incubation was in progress in one of them. He was told that a brood had left the other nest earlier this summer. The nests "were plastered on the inside of the roof of a dairy barn."

With this record in mind, my brother, E. B. Chamberlain, and I were driving just north of Blowing Rock, N. C., Watauga County, on July 14, when we found Barn Swallows entering a barn near the road. Investigation resulted in our locating a nest containing at least 3 young which E. B. estimated to be about one week old. The nest was placed above the end of a spliced rafter about half way up the slope of the roof of a two story barn. We watched both adults feeding the young several times. The barn is on the Lentz farm. Mrs. Lentz very kindly agreed to our investigation. She was unable to tell us whether or not the swallows had occupied the barn before this summer. In addition to the pair attending the nest, a third Barn Swallow flew above the yard several times, possibly from an earlier brood of the year.

Inland breeding records of the Barn Swallow are very rare in North Carolina. It is interesting to note that the only inland nest recorded in *Birds of North Carolina*, was also found in Watauga County (1909), at Valle Crucis, some 9 miles from the site of our find. The nests found by the Hendrens near Roaring Gap in Alleghany County are about 50 miles to the northeast.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Matthews, N. C.

**Cedar Waxwing Depredation at Raleigh, N. C.**—Cedar Waxwings over-stayed their welcome in our yard this past spring. For the past ten years flocks of these wanderers have visited our grounds during late winter to feed on berries of several kinds and especially the fruits of the thorny elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus pungens*). This shrub blooms during the fall and matures fruit during the winter. The common fruit-eating birds are never able to eat more than a small fraction of the fruits of the elaeagnus and we expect the Cedar Waxwings to appear during March or April and remain for several weeks, depending on how long fruit remains for their feeding.

This past season the Waxwings did not appear until late April. When all fruits of the Elaeagnus had been eaten they did not depart at once, but stayed around several more weeks and fed on leaf and flower buds and open flowers of a Rome Beauty apple tree, eight years of age. Gradually it became apparent that considerable damage was being done the tree and we flushed the birds from the tree several times daily. The last day they were here was May 1, when a small flock of around 20 was observed eating both leaf buds and flowers.

The Rome Beauty variety is the latest to bloom of seven varieties of apple trees at our place and all other varieties had bloomed earlier and were further along with development of leaves. The severe damage of the Waxwings was very apparent during the next two months. The foliage was less than half normal and less than a dozen flowers set fruit, all on lower limbs

nearest the ground. The tree should have borne at least two bushels of fruit this year and in the opinion of the observer would have if the Cedar Waxwings had not taken a fancy to its buds and flowers.—C. H. BOSTIAN, June 30, 1952.

**Kentucky Warbler Breeding on the S. C. Coast.**—On April 20, 1952, I entered the swamp-lined Bee's Ferry Road in Charleston County at about 6:30 a.m. Near the entrance of the road, to the East, I had the good fortune to find a pair of Swainson's Warblers. I spent about 10 minutes watching the two birds before they traveled out of sight back into the swamp.

Several miles down the road to the West I stopped the automobile near a small wooden bridge to watch a male Hooded Warbler. The bird was in plain view along the side of the road and I remained seated in my car watching his movements through binoculars. Suddenly, another warbler appeared in my line of vision. It was a Kentucky, and it was carrying food in its bill. It occurred to me that this was extremely early for a Kentucky to be carrying food to young, but maybe it was feeding a female on the nest. I checked the Field Guide to assure myself of the identification.

I watched the bird for several minutes as it hopped about in the lower branches of the bushes near the road. The bird remained in an area about 6 feet in from the roadside and about 20 feet from my car. It showed some concern and appeared nervous because of the proximity of the car. As I watched, the Kentucky finally made its way to the base of an oak tree and disappeared. In a few seconds it darted out and flew away, minus the food. My first thought was to leap from the car and investigate, but I decided to sit tight and wait. The bird returned in about four minutes and went through the same procedure, moving about in the bushes and then suddenly disappearing at the base of the tree.

This time I left the car. As I approached the tree the bird flew out. Then, from almost under my feet a female Kentucky hopped off a nest partially concealed under a surface root and flew to a nearby bush.

The nest contained six eggs, one more than the normal complement. Four of the eggs were white, sprinkled with red and lilac spots. However, one egg was only slightly marked and the sixth egg was almost pure white.

The nest was bulky, composed of twigs, grasses, rootlets, and a few small leaves, and lined with fine grasses. It was semi-oven shaped, having been placed partially under the surface root. The root and the top part of the nest were covered with green moss. It appeared, however, that the moss was growing there and had not been placed by the birds. The nest was hidden partially under this overhang, exceedingly well concealed.

As I jotted down the facts on this first actual nesting record of the Kentucky Warbler on the coast, it occurred to me that my colleagues in Charleston would lift eyebrows when I revealed that I had discovered the nest WHILE SITTING IN MY CAR. They did, with a great deal of kidding from Ellison Williams and Milby Burton.—ERNEST CUTTS, *The Charleston Evening Post*, Charleston, S. C., July 11, 1952.

**Evening Grosbeaks in the Carolinas (concluded).** As far as local observations go, there is little of interest besides departure dates to add to our account in the June *Chat* of the 1951-52 overflow of Evening Grosbeaks into the Carolinas. However, the report of Greenleaf Chase (1), Game Manager for New York, on the 1951 seed crop in the Adirondack area is interesting since it supports our thought that shortage of natural food in New England was a factor behind the flight South. Mr. Chase found that, "In general 1950 was a good seed year and 1951 a very poor one; *maples*, very light crop; *boxelder*, spotty; *ash*, no seed crop; *basswood*, very light; *beech*, no seed crop; *bireh*, fair to poor; *pines*, poor to none. . ." The report goes on to name over 30 varieties of plants, the great majority of which failed to bear even average seed or fruit crops. Such a dearth of food raises a question as to the effect upon the other seed-eaters in the area.

Departures of the grosbeaks from our section were typical for localities at range extremities. There were no birds to the South of us to temporarily swell our population prior to departure. Experiences of two of our observers

will suffice to record this. C. D. Beers, at Chapel Hill, N. C., wrote: "From Apr. 23 to Apr. 30, inclusive, the table was visited daily from early morning until about 3 p.m., by Evening Grosbeaks of both sexes, although we never saw more than six individuals at one time. . . . On May 1, only 2 individuals, both females, were seen at the table, and from May 2 to May 7, inclusive, never more than 1 individual, always a female, was seen at the table or heard in the trees. This individual was not seen after May 7." From Roanoke Rapids, N. C., Mrs. A. O. Pendleton noted the departure as follows: "The birds continued to stay on here in a large flock. I counted fifty on the ground at most any time up until around Apr. 15. They began to be less and less until on Sunday, May 4, we saw the last of the Evening Grosbeaks. . . . (with the exception of a cripple that remained until May 16)."

The appearance at Chapel Hill, N. C., May 7 (Beers), is the last record of the 1951-52 flight to the Carolinas to come to us.

#### LITERATURE CITED

1. B. M. and M. S. Shaub. Evening Grosbeak Survey News, Dec. 1951, p. 6.

#### APPENDIX

Communities visited and not reported in June *Chat*:

Carthage, N. C., Feb. 17, 1952, N. McK. Caldwell, 25 to 30 birds, both sexes.  
Hillsboro, N. C., Apr. 13, 1952, Joseph R. Bailey, several hundred in flocks of 60 or more.  
Jackson, N. C., Mar. 26, 1952, Miss Blair Bowers, 1 pair.

#### PREVIOUS RECORDS FOR THE CAROLINAS

Flight of 1922. Two reports for N. C., recorded in *Birds of N. C.*, 1942.

Flight of 1946. Jan. 24, Salisbury, N. C., Miss Knox; Mar. 25, Apr. 9, Henderson, N. C., Mrs. A. W. Bachman; Apr. 15, Raleigh, N. C., Cecil Halliburton; Apr. 29, Pittsboro, N. C., Miss Clara Hearne.

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*, July 18, 1952.

#### Briefs for the Files

Horned Grebe, 1 at Beaufort, N. C., May 25, 1952; Paul J. Kramer. . . .  
White Pelican, 2 in a small flock of Brown Pelicans along the Mt. Pleasant shore of Charleston harbor, May 18, 1952; Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Horlbeck. . . .  
Glossy Ibis, 1 on flats of Sol Legare Island, south of Charleston, S. C., June 1, 1952; Ellison Williams. . . .  
Blue-winged Teal, 5 at pond near Clemson College, S. C., Apr. 13, 1952; W. P. VanEseltine and party. . . .  
American Goldeneye, 1 bird was watched at Zimmerman's Lake, Spartanburg, S. C., several days including Apr. 9, 1952; Gabriel Cannon, Harold Correll. . . .  
American Scoter, 1 on Bogue Sound back of Fort Macon, Beaufort, N. C., June 29, 1952; Robert Holmes, III. . . .  
Stilt Sandpiper, 1 on May 3, and again on May 6, 1952, Wilmington, N. C., Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, Mr. and Mrs. Don Stroud. . . .  
Black-necked Stilt, 2 on flats of Sol Legare Island, south of Charleston, S. C., June 1, and June 15, 1952. These birds left when ponds dried up two weeks later; Ellison Williams.—Dept. Ed.

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Feb. 19, 1770. You wonder, with good reason, that the hedge-sparrows, etc., can be induced to sit at all on the egg of the cuckoo without being scandalized at the vast disproportioned size of the supposititious egg.—  
GILBERT WHITE in *Natural History of Selborne*.

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What seems probable, however, is that many of the crows enjoy being jostled into fear. They want an excuse for movement: that is apparently the origin of most games. To keep perpetually moving is a Law of Nature with them as it is with flies and planets. The ability to move at will is the chief thing that distinguishes a living creature from a stone. Hence living creatures abhor stillness and stagnation as properties of the dead. Children, birds and fish are seldom still. They must circulate at all costs—not for any purpose, save that circulation is a good thing in itself.—ROBERT LYND from *Solomon in All His Glory*.

# THE COMING SEASON FOR HAWK WATCHING IN THE CAROLINAS

THOMAS W. SIMPSON

During the next few weeks, observers in the Carolinas will find themselves in an excellent position to contribute to the hawk migration studies now in progress. The fall migration of hawks and eagles along their characteristic fly-ways has attracted hundreds of "hawk-watchers" to vantage points like Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, and Cape May, New Jersey. During the fall of 1951 observers in South Carolina, under the leadership of Dr. William P. VanEseltine (*The Chat* 16:6) conducted a preliminary reconnaissance for similar vantage points in that State. This year, members of the Carolina Bird Club (from both North and South Carolina) will cooperate with similar groups in other eastern and central states in attempting to trace the precise migration paths of birds of prey in eastern North America. The collaborative effort is under the general direction of Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, editor of *Audubon Field Notes*.

Past experience has shown the tendency of many species to follow long parallel ridges in the Appalachians, as they pass southward riding the deflective air currents produced most favorably by strong northwesterly winds. Ideal observation conditions—with many low-flying hawks—are apparently dependent on such winds; the best flights in the mountains are reported to follow the development of low pressure areas and temperature drops in the northern Appalachians. (Other conditions do not necessarily check the instinctively-guided migration, but may produce dispersal of flocks, deviation from the ridges across flat country, or soaring at high altitudes, all of which preclude identification.)

It seems advantageous to concentrate on the rather well-marked fall flights of the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) through this region. The heaviest flights of Broad-wings, moving southward along the Appalachians en route to Central and South America, will occur in latter September. The week-ends of September 20-21 and 27-28 have therefore been designated by Mr. Robbins for maximal coverage. He urges interested observers to spend eight hours afield daily on these week-ends if possible. Similar periods of time devoted to hawk watching on other week-ends (and through the week as well) will be needed, for hawk flights are hardly predictable. We hasten to add that shorter observation periods are quite acceptable and reports from areas other than the mountains will be of value. Standard reporting, with half-hourly counts, will be facilitated by the use of special forms; these forms will be provided to all participants upon request to the writer.

In order to give full cooperation to this study, the regular fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club will be held on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Rearing Gap, September 26-27-28. Special emphasis will be given to hawk migration during the meeting. Some members may wish to plan their trip so that a portion of Friday or Saturday morning can be spent looking for hawk flights near Mount Mitchell or Grandfather Mountain.

Wide coverage is of course essential in the present exploratory phase of these studies, especially in the southeastern states where flyways and concentration points are imperfectly known as yet. Reports of large aggregations of hawks, coming from experts and novices alike, are of value in spotting vantage points in the southern Appalachians. Observations of this sort are limited to a few weeks in September, October, and November. We must make the most of this brief season. So, during the next few weeks, plan to refresh your memory on hawk patterns, check with the weatherman, and head for some high vantage point on a long, prominent ridge anywhere in the mountains!—3252 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, N. C., July 10, 1952.

# MEMBERSHIP LIST, CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, JULY, 1952

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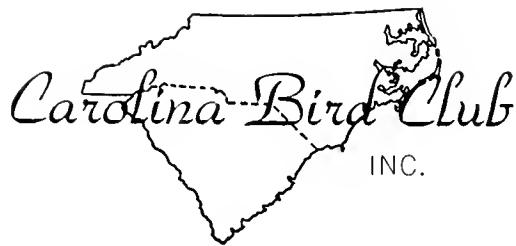
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We are particularly delighted to publish the above list of 1,105 paid members of the Carolina Bird Club for 1952. Renewals and reinstatements are still coming in, and will be printed in the December *Chat*. (In accordance with the By-Laws, all new members since July 1 are being credited for 1952.) While the list is as complete and accurate as we could make it, there undoubtedly are some errors and omissions. Please send all corrections to the Distribution Office as soon as possible.

The growth of the Club this past year is most gratifying, reaching and surpassing the 1,000 members mark for the first time. The net increase of about 400 members is the result of volunteer work in all parts of the two States. We are primarily dependent on this spontaneous activity of the individual members everywhere, and we urge everyone to continue telling others about the Club.—T. L. QUAY, HARRY DAVIS, ROBERT OVERING, MRS. J. B. WHITENER, MRS. W. C. MEBANE, MARGARET FREUND.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

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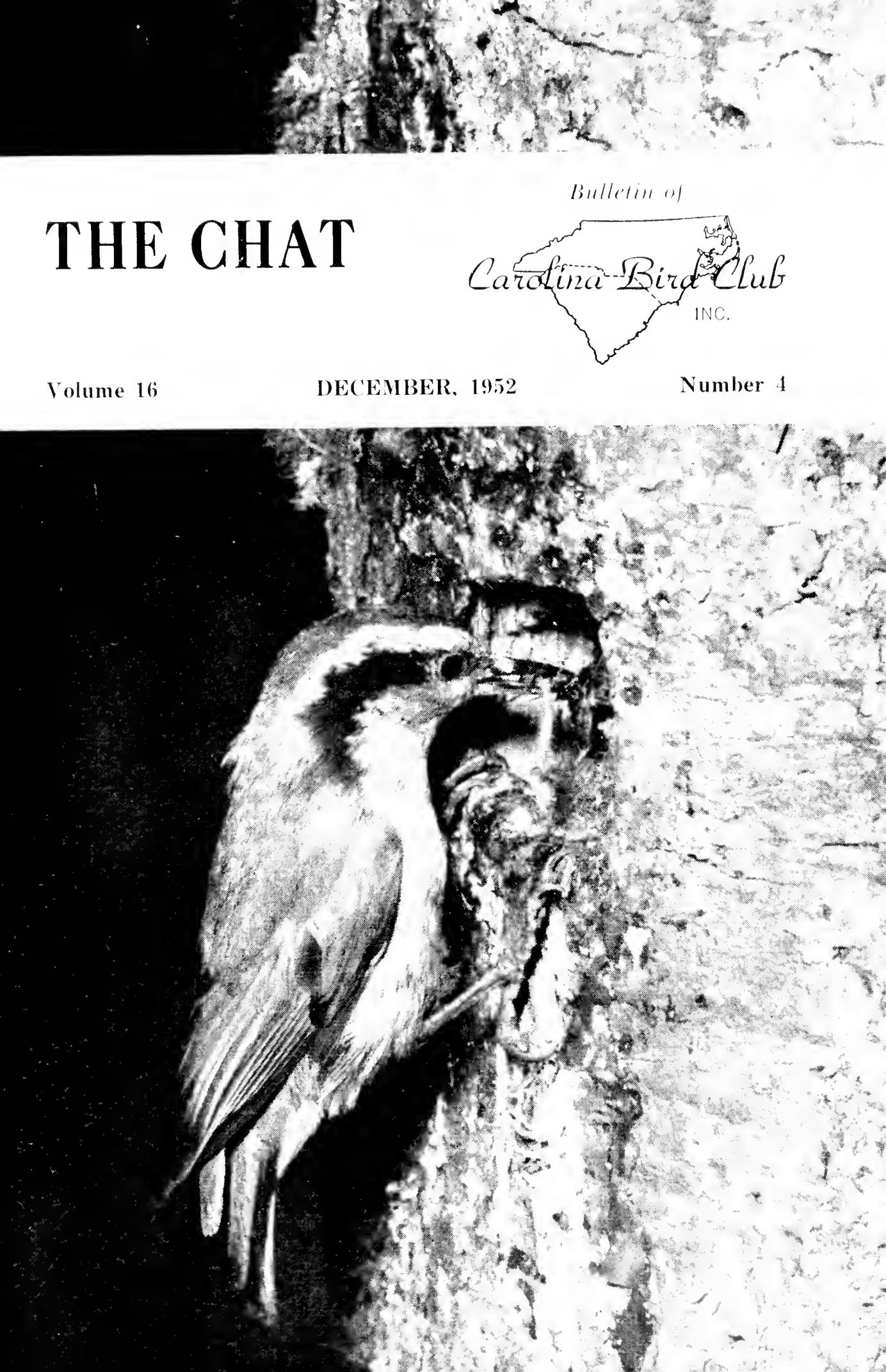
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*Bulletin of*

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## CONTENTS

The President's Page .....	77
Utilization of a Nest-Box by the Brown-headed Nuthatch. <i>C. Dale Beers</i> .....	78
Photographing the Red-breasted Nuthatch. <i>Samuel A. Grimes</i> .....	80
Bird Sanctuaries in North Carolina. <i>Lunette Barber</i> .....	82
Backyard Birding. <i>Annie Rivers Faver</i> , editor .....	86
Greenfield Park Nature Museum. <i>Charlotte Hilton Green</i> .....	89
Editorial .....	90
A Preliminary Note on the 1952 Hawk Migration Project. <i>Thomas W. Simpson</i> .....	92
Birds of Bertie County Sixty Years Ago. <i>J. W. P. Smithwick, M. D.</i> ..	93
General Field Notes. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , editor .....	97
High Winds, Herons, and Ibises. <i>Annie R. Faver</i> .....	97
Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nesting in Guilford County, N. C. <i>James Mattocks</i> .....	97
Notes from Spartanburg, S. C. <i>Gabriel Cannon</i> .....	98
Rails at Beaufort, N. C. <i>T. L. Quay</i> .....	98
Bridled Tern on the S. C. Coast. <i>A. Sprunt, Jr.</i> and <i>A. Sprunt, 4th</i> .....	98
Barred Owl Preys Upon Trout. <i>Edward Ray Smith</i> .....	99
Additional Barn Swallow Breeding Records. <i>Roy M. Brown</i> .....	99
Purple Martin: Attachment for Locality. <i>James L. Stephens, Jr.</i> .....	99
Purple Martin: Large Summer Population at Greensboro, N. C. <i>Wesley Taylor, M. D.</i> ..	99
Albino Eastern Kingbird. <i>Charles M. Frost</i> .....	100
The House Wren in Watauga County, N. C. <i>Roy M. Brown</i> .....	100
Yellow-headed Blackbird at Raleigh, N. C. <i>T. L. Quay</i> and <i>W. A. Goodson, Jr.</i> .....	101
Scarlet Tanager Breeding (?) in Forsyth County, N. C. <i>T. W. and D. C. Simpson</i> ..	101
Painted Bunting in Lower Richland County, S. C. <i>Annie R. Faver</i> .....	101
Nocturnal Migration Study. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	102
Briefs for the Files. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	102
Additions to <i>South Carolina Bird Life</i> . <i>Alexander Sprunt, Jr.</i> .....	103
The Christmas Census. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	103
New and Re-instated Members. Compiled by <i>Mrs. J. B. Whitener</i> .....	104

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Now is the time to prepare for the 1952 Christmas census. Each year the census becomes more important, and to all who participate it is a joy forever. This year the dates are December 20-28, inclusive.

Last year 176 species and over 108,000 individuals were counted in the Carolinas, according to Rhett Chamberlain (March 1952 *Chat*). Wilmington led, as usual, with 141 species, fourteen observers participating. Los Angeles led the nation with 150 species, but it had 106 observers. I predict that first honors in the country will go to Wilmington within the next few years. It is an exceptional territory for birds, and has its share of capable ornithologists.

Charleston is another good area, and it gives Wilmington a close race each year. In fact, it led the nation in 1941, 1942, and 1943. Last year 123 species were recorded there. Columbia had 58, Spartanburg 59, Winston-Salem 62, Statesville 49, Greensboro 74, to name a few of the 23 Carolina localities where lists were made. James Hutchins, who has been compiling Christmas counts at Windom, N. C. for many years, recorded 26 species last year. Fred Behrend, the hawk man, recorded 12 species and a total of only 32 individuals in the mountains on the Tennessee-North Carolina line.

Baltimore Orioles were seen last year at Chapel Hill, where at least one pair has been wintering during the past few seasons. Orioles were not recorded anywhere else in the two states on the Christmas count, nor do I find them recorded in the *Audubon Field Notes* lists submitted from the states of Virginia, Georgia, or Florida. What is the reason for this? And, will we see Evening Grosbeaks this year?

It's good to get out during the Christmas holidays and spend a day tramping through the fields, woods, swamps, dunes or mountains, counting and recording the birds. Send in your Christmas census reports to B. R. Chamberlain, Rt. 1, Matthews, N. C. Mr. Chamberlain has a note on the details of the Christmas count for this year elsewhere in this issue.

—Robert Overing

## UTILIZATION OF A NEST-BOX BY THE BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH

C. DALE BEERS

The examination of a number of contributions on nesting habits and the use of nest-boxes (1, 2, 3) fails to reveal any mention of the Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) as an occupant of man-made boxes. Hence, the present observations are of special interest; they indicate that this nuthatch is another of the hole-nesting birds which, in the words of Allen (2, p. 341), are learning "to adapt themselves . . . to accept . . . artificial structures."

During the winter of 1950-51 several Brown-headed Nuthatches came regularly to our feeding station in the residential section of Chapel Hill, showing a decided preference for a bread-lard-peanut butter mixture. This was supplied in holes bored in a 15-inch length of elm which was hung vertically by a string from the corner of our screened porch. About February 20, 1951, there developed among them a noisy quarrel, concerned undoubtedly with territoriality and mating, and some of them inspected our nest-boxes repeatedly. By February 28 the disturbance had subsided and there remained only two individuals, which were inseparable. On this date they carried some nesting material into one of the boxes. This box was mounted 5.5 feet above the ground on a post which stood 20 feet from the porch; inside, it measured 4.5 x 4.5 x 9 inches in height; the entrance hole was 1½ inches in diameter and 6 inches from the floor; the roof was hinged at the back to facilitate observation.

On March 3 nest-building began in earnest. Both birds carried in foundation material, largely red cedar bark. By March 8 this material formed a layer about 2 inches thick, though slightly hollowed out at the center. At dusk on March 9, assuming that the two had gone elsewhere for the night, I looked into the box and found that in reality both had retired to the nest. They were perched side by side on the edge of the central depression, into which their tails were directed, whereas their heads faced the front of the box. Subsequent examinations, sometimes at dusk, again well after dark and with the aid of a flashlight, showed that they regularly spent the night in the box throughout nest-building, incubation, and the feeding of nestlings. The position just described was typical for the pre-incubation period.

Nest-building proceeded leisurely during an ensuing period of bad weather, though by March 20 the foundation material formed a layer at least 3 inches thick. The shape of the nest was such that its component materials now formed a sort of platform around the inch-deep central depression. By March 23 many wings of pine seeds, a favorite nesting material of this nuthatch, had been added, chiefly as a lining, but there were no eggs. From March 24 to April 1 many more pine-seed wings were added, as well as masses of woolen lint. During this nine-day period one bird, probably the female, spent much time inside the box, peering out at intervals, while the other collected wings from seeds still in attached cones and passed them to her through the entrance hole. Indeed, it was difficult to find a time to observe the interior without disturbing the occupants. However, on the after-

noon of March 27, when both birds were on the feeder, a hasty examination disclosed four eggs, laid between March 24 and 27. From March 28 to April 1, nesting material was brought in less frequently and the female peered out less often. It was evident that incubation had begun, probably on March 29. The final number of eggs, noted March 31, was six. Thus it is clear that nest-building continued throughout the period of egg-laying and extended briefly into incubation.

The nest was examined at dusk on March 31. One bird was sitting on the eggs; its mate was alongside on the platform. These were their usual positions at night during incubation, but whether they shared the duties I cannot say. The eggs were still unhatched at 5:00 p.m. April 11, but at 1:00 p.m. on the following day four nestlings were present, and at 8:00 a.m. April 13 there were five. The sixth egg failed to hatch. Thus incubation occupied about 14 days (March 29 to April 11 or 12), as Bent (1) indicates.

Both parents worked diligently in the feeding of the young, and both participated, though unequally, in the task of nocturnal brooding. When the nestlings were young, one parent at night occupied the conventional position in the depression and thus covered them completely, whereas the other usually rested across its rump, their heads forming an angle of about 60 degrees. Later when the nestlings and the depression were larger, the upper adult rested more nearly parallel to the lower. The nestlings departed on the forenoon of May 2. Thus they spent a total of 20 days (April 12 to May 2) in the box and left as strong, vigorous fledglings. On May 3 and 4 some of them were seen and heard in the nearby trees, but the family group soon wandered off. Once out of the box, none returned at night.

After their departure the nest was examined carefully for composition. Its bulk consisted of red cedar bark and chips of partly decayed wood (probably pine), with the addition of some grasses and pine needles. The chips were evidently cut out by the birds themselves; the largest measured about  $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{12}$  inches. The many pine-seed wings formed a lining layer nearly an inch thick in the depression; peripherally their distribution was diffuse and restricted to the upper inch. Some 30 masses of lint completed the lining.

The aggressiveness of one member of the pair—the male, presumably—in the defense of the nesting territory was remarkable. When nest-building began, he attempted to drive away all the numerous small birds, chiefly Pine Warblers, Myrtle Warblers, and Carolina Chickadees, that were attracted to the feeding station. On two occasions he was so bold that he tried to drive away a tame Pine Warbler that was feeding in my hand. He scolded the woodpeckers (Downy, Hairy, and Red-bellied) and the White-breasted Nuthatches vehemently, though after he was seized and soundly shaken by one of the latter he seemed to treat this species with more caution. Some species, among them the Cardinal, White-throated Sparrow, and Red-eyed Towhee, were consistently ignored by him, as was a wintering Baltimore Oriole which was at the feeder constantly. Soon his animosity came to be centered primarily on the woodpeckers, which he harassed relentlessly, and his piping cries in the adjacent trees or at the feeder nearly always meant an encounter with one of them. His procedure was to perch about 2 feet above the woodpecker and to dive repeatedly at its head, executing after each dive a sharp turn which brought him back to his original position. At

the feeder he would cling to the supporting string and dive at the wood-pecker below. On one occasion he made 24 successive dives at the head of a male Downy, dislodging it twice before it finished its meal. The several Downy Woodpeckers and a female Hairy Woodpecker which came regularly to the feeder merely jerked their heads quickly out of his path, but a male Red-bellied Woodpecker often jabbed menacingly at him, and his dives were advisedly shortened, though his persistence was unaffected. It is fortunate that the woodpeckers, though much annoyed by his conduct, were never genuinely retaliatory. His intense and unremitting antagonism to woodpeckers, and to the White-breasted Nuthatch as well, would seem to be of special significance, in that these species under natural conditions are among his chief competitors for nesting sites.

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*Department of Zoology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C., March 15, 1952.*

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## PHOTOGRAPHING THE RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

SAMUEL A. GRIMES

Birds of the mountain tops have a more than ordinary interest to lowland seacoast dwellers such as my wife and I. We have enjoyed several days each June for the past four years doing a bit of birding in the mountains from the Smokies to the Poconos. These little outings have provided us with thrills galore. We have come to know intimately a good many birds that were to us only winter or transient acquaintances. One of these is the Red-breasted Nuthatch.

We found this little bird first at Clingman's Dome in the Smokies. Later we found it common in the coniferous forests in the Black Mountains and on into the Cheat Mountains of West Virginia. We found nests wherever we went. The bird's habits seemed to us to be very much like the White-breasted Nuthatch's. It has the same way of revealing the whereabouts of its nesting place with a drawn-out nasal note. Its nesting ways and notes are quite different from those of our familiar little Brown-headed Nuthatch of the flatwoods.

Most of the nests that we found were in stubs of spruce or hemlock that had been dead probably two or three years. We found one nest as low as ten or twelve feet above the ground and several in the 30-to 40-foot range. The latter half of June seems to be the season when young are in the nest.

One nest was in a sunny place at the side of the road near Newfound Gap. It was about 30 feet up in a dead branch of a beech tree. It was in a fair situation for photography, and we decided to try for some shots, though rigging up a camera in the branches at that height was not going to be an easy matter. I climbed a tree a few feet from the nest, taking a rope with me to use in hoisting the photo equipment. As I reached the level of the nest hole, and was only eight or ten feet away, there was a con-

siderable commotion in the nest tree, with the parent nuthatches darting about and "yanking" excitedly.

The cause of their distraction was a red squirrel that was making its way toward the nest. Hoping to get a camera in position in time, I waved my hands, holloed, shook the tree, but the squirrel paid absolutely no attention to the frantic but feeble attacks of the nuthatches or to my own antics. He went directly to the nest hole, forced his head and shoulders through the small opening, and pulled out a flapping baby nuthatch that was almost fully feathered. The bird uttered one cry, but was quickly stilled with a crushing bite through the head.

The squirrel then ran up the tree three or four feet, sat on its haunches, and proceeded to "peel" the fledgling nuthatch as it would husk a green hickory nut, by rolling the body in its paws and rapidly pulling off the skin and feathers with its teeth. When the feathers were disposed of, the squirrel lost no time in devouring the rest of the bird. After licking his chops upon completion of his gory repast the predator ran down again to the nest hole and again squeezed the fore part of its body through the entrance. But he came out empty-handed. It may be that he could not reach the remaining members of the nuthatch brood, but I am of the impression that there were none left, for, after the squirrel made off through the tree tops, when the parent nuthatches came with food and entered the nest chamber they came out with the food still in their bills, and after an hour's time showed little interest in the nest.

We did succeed in photographing a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches at another nest not far from the hapless one. This nest hole was in a conifer stub in the dark evergreen woods. A live tree stood three or four feet away, and it was not difficult to set up a camera at the 20-foot height. Our great difficulty was in keeping the birds from darting into the hole too quickly. On several occasions I leaned out on my safety belt and held one hand over the nest hole to keep the birds out while changing a flash lamp or film with the other, and the birds tried to go between my fingers in their eagerness to feed the young ones.—36 S. Main St., Jacksonville 1, Florida, Oct. 18, 1952.

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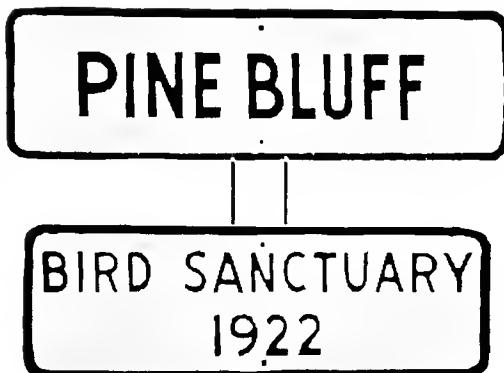
The commoner birds, which we see nearly every day, have grown familiar to us—we no longer see them as they really are, and it is sometimes necessary for an occasionally uncommon bird to remind us what kind of creatures they are which we seek after. Any biologist will tell us the cold facts of bird anatomy, the temperature of its blood, the possible workings of its brain; any textbook will tell us about its habits, its plumage, almost anything we want to know. But I doubt whether the bird itself can be known except in rare flashes of insight.—W. K. RICHMOND in *Quest for Birds*.

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There is a great tree in Sussex, whose cloud of thin foliage floats high in the summer air. The thrush sings in it, and blackbirds, who fill the late, decorative sunshine with a shimmer of golden sound. There the nightingale finds her green cloister; and on those branches sometimes, like a great fruit, hangs the lemon-colored moon. In the glare of August, when all the world is faint with heat, there is always a breeze in those cool recesses, always a noise, like the noise of water, among its lightly hung leaves. But the owner of this tree lives in London, reading books.—LOGAN PEARSALL SMITH in *Trivia*.

# BIRD SANCTUARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

LUNETTE BARBER



How many bird sanctuaries are there in North Carolina? How can we make our town a sanctuary? Questions like these are received by the scores, and yet there is lack of information about them.

It is interesting to know that Pine Bluff, North Carolina, was made the first bird sanctuary in 1922 by the town commissioners. Before 1940 there were three others: 1933, Statesville; 1937, Henderson; 1939, Roscraggen

Wood (Buncombe County). By 1940 much interest was beginning to be shown because the following were created: 1940, Ahoskie, Salisbury, Siler City, Farmville; 1941, Reynolda; 1942, Tryon; 1943, Boone, Newton, Roanoke Rapids, Forsyth Country Club Sanctuary, Methodist Children Home Sanctuary, Forsyth Tubercular Sanatorium, Maiden; 1944, Moore General Hospital, Guilford College, U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital, Greensboro, Biltmore Forest; 1945, Greenville; 1946, Pilot Mountain, Fremont, Raleigh, Charlotte; 1947, Mills Home, Lexington; 1949, Ramseur; 1950, Lake Junaluska, Liberty, and Dunn.

Since 1950 many places have been made bird sanctuaries. There is no accurate record, but the accompanying map shows the sanctuaries already mentioned and others that were reported by the wildlife protectors throughout the State in 1951.\*

What is a sanctuary? Webster says, "Sanctuary—a place of refuge for birds, or for game or other animals, where predatory animals are controlled and hunting is not allowed; as a *bird sanctuary*, a *game sanctuary*. *Sanctuary* and *refuge* are sometimes distinguished, the former being applied to a place where all forms of wildlife are equally protected, the latter to a place where predaceous birds and animals are controlled for the protection of more desirable forms of wildlife, as game and insectivorous birds."

When one hears *bird sanctuary* mentioned, immediately credit is given to Dr. Frank M. Chapman. He was father of the bird sanctuary system, and as curator of birds at the American Museum of Natural History in New York for 34 years, he built the world's finest collection which includes over 750,000 specimens.

How can we make our town a sanctuary? Prior to 1951 there had been two customary ways by which sanctuaries were created—by an Act of the General Assembly and by proclamation by city government. Finally, the following Act was passed the 27th day of March, 1951: H. B. 419—

SECTION 1. From and after the ratification of this Act, the governing body of any municipality in the State of North Carolina may, in its discretion, by ordinance, create and establish a bird sanctuary within the territorial limits of such municipality. "Provided no ordinance of any governing body of any municipality adopted pursuant hereto may protect any

birds classed as predatory by the Wildlife Resources Commission or by the General Statutes of North Carolina nor may the protection of such ordinance extend to Pigeons, Crows, Starlings, or English Sparrows."

SECTION 2. Upon the creation and establishment of a bird sanctuary by any municipality in this State under the provisions of Section 1 of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, kill or trap any birds within the territorial limits of such municipality. Any person violating the provisions of an ordinance passed by any municipality under the provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) or imprisoned not more than 30 days.

Suppose your municipality establishes a bird sanctuary? Do you have a responsibility? It would be well to note the following from the 1939 April-May issue of *The Chat*, after Henderson became a sanctuary. This is the ordinance: Now therefore, be it resolved

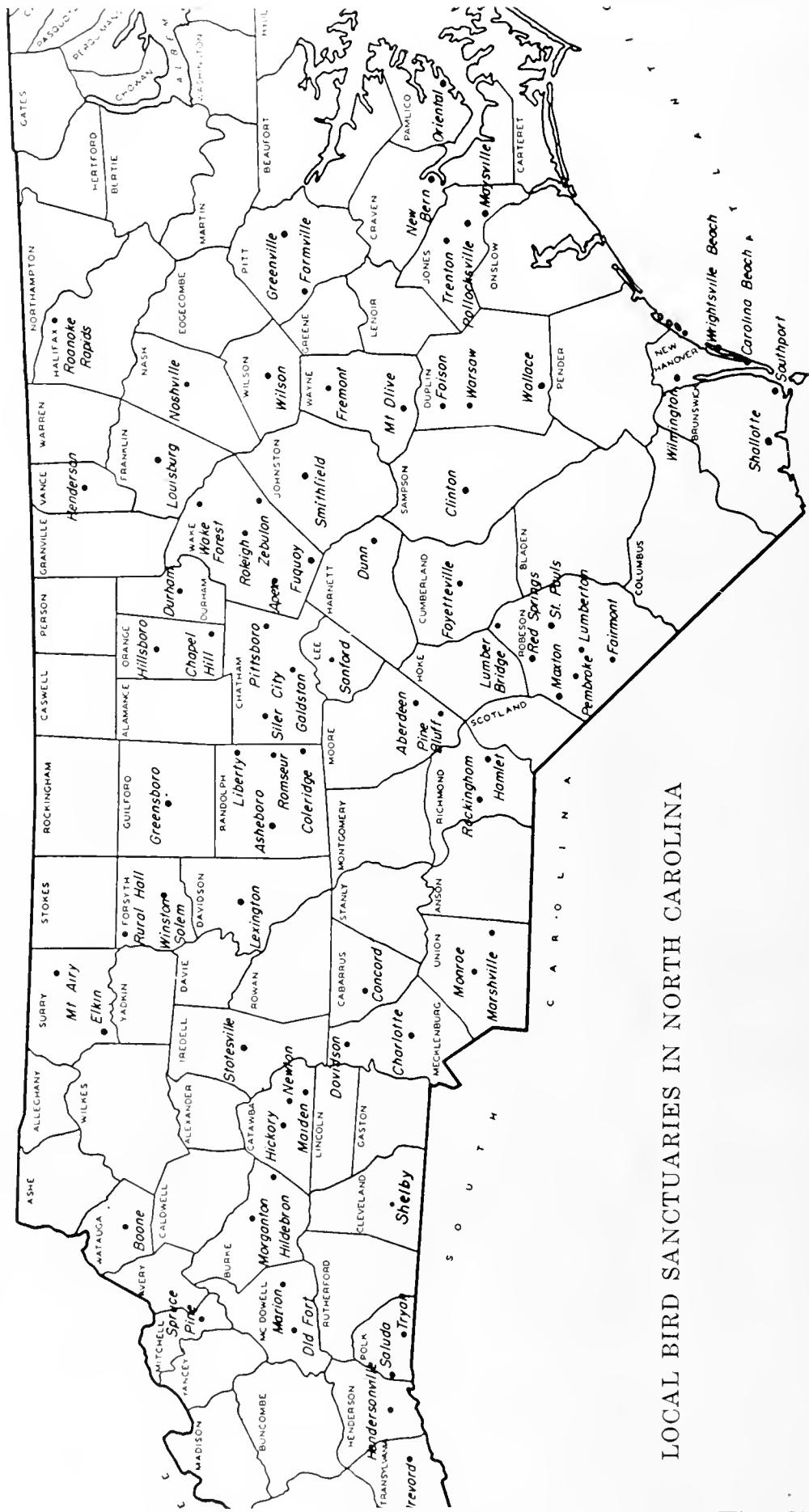
1. That the entire Municipality be declared a bird sanctuary.
2. That all ordinances regulating the discharge of firearms in the city be strictly enforced.
3. That permission be granted the Henderson Bird Club to put up artistic signs on the post designating the corporate limits.
4. That expedient measures be taken to exterminate the city of stray and unclean cats.

People who inquire seem to have four questions in mind: What does it mean? Why does Henderson feel the need of this official measure? What are the underlying principles? How are the sponsors working out the plan? These are briefly the answers to the four questions:

1. Official signs on highway entrances to the city announce that Henderson is a bird sanctuary by special ordinance. This means that the Mayor and Council have called upon the people of Henderson to protect birds and that the people—men, women, and children—are more or less trying to do it.

2. This official measure was asked because the sponsors realize that special effort must be made to preserve bird life if birds are to survive the destruction of woods, gullies, and thickets which is going on, sweeping away both food and shelter. The sanctuary is a pledge that steps will be taken and taken increasingly to re-plant berry-bearing trees and shrubs and to provide protection from stray cats, dogs, and unlawful shooting.

3. The underlying principles are four in number, and the cardinal one is supplying natural food and shelter. Another is the method of dealing with the deepseated desire of boys to shoot birds. The wise and effective way seems to be that of showing the small boy and the adult a *more interesting way* to approach birds than with a gun, at the same time publishing in the newspaper from time to time the city law against firing a gun within the city limits for any purpose and the state law against shooting song birds, though making every effort to reduce the necessity for law enforcement to a mini-



LOCAL BIRD SANCTUARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

muni. Another principle involves the method of dealing with the cat problem. The sanctuary sponsors recognize that lovers of cats have as much right to their cats as the lovers of birds have to birds, though they ask the owners of cats to keep them up at night during the nesting season. The sponsors at the same time keenly realize the need for stray cat and dog control throughout the county in order to check the tragic reduction of game and song birds by cats and dogs belonging to no one. And let us add here that the Vance County officials whose responsibility this is are facing it. They are appalled at the facts they are finding and will deal with the problem in a wise way. They are as fine leaders as are to be found anywhere and the Henderson Bird Club is willing to trust its case with them. Knowing birds rather than knowing about them is the fourth principle.

The foregoing from *The Chat* answers the questions. Definitely, each person does have an individual responsibility to conserve our natural resources. And when a bird sanctuary is established it is made more emphatic what is to be stressed—Birds!

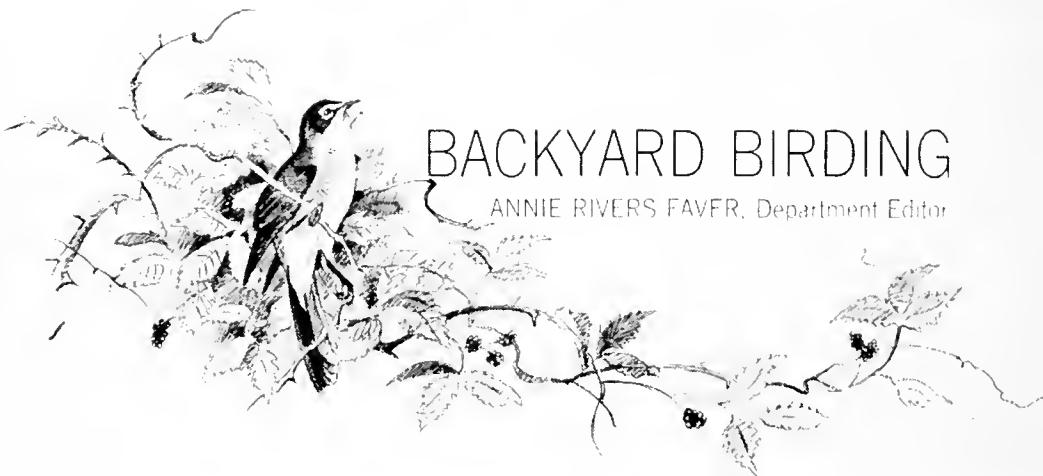
Are you doing something to make your sanctuary real? Or do you just enjoy seeing your sign when you drive into your town and think, "How wonderful it was that the State Highway Commission erected that sign for us." What about the birds? Is it safe for them to rest on that sign; fly into that town; find food, shelter, and protection; adopt it for their home and raise their young? There are too many of us enjoying birds just from an aesthetic standpoint. There is much work to be done and many ways to do it. Perhaps too many times we are prone to think that this business of conservation is too slow. If time is taken to check the progress of the Carolina Bird Club, it will be learned that the investments made by a few faithful members years ago are beginning to pay dividends with interest rates increasing all the time.—*Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, N. C., August 1, 1952.*

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\* If there is a bird sanctuary in your community that has been omitted from the map, please inform the author of this article and in the future please send notification if one is created in your vicinity. It has been a long, endless task to obtain the above information because of a variety of sponsors. Note that all the incorporated towns in Jones and Robeson counties are sanctuaries.

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[Lunette Barber is Wildlife Education Representative for the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, and Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee of the CBC. Miss Barber and William Hamnett prepared the map on page 84. Jack Dermid took the photograph of the Pine Bluff Sanctuary sign. The Wildlife Resources Commission is ordering several thousand reprints of this article for Miss Barber to distribute over the State in her regular work. We hope that the use of this timely paper will result in the establishment of many more local sanctuaries. We expect to have a similar article for South Carolina in the next issue.—T. L. Q.]



## BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

We all know the importance of providing food and water for our birds in mid-winter. How about going out now and checking on your yard to see how much shelter it offers your birds? You may have many trees and bushes near your bird bath and feeders, but have they shed their leaves now that winter is here? Birds need protection against wet, windy weather, a place of refuge when enemies approach, and adequate cover for roosting at night.

Most of us will have evergreens in our homes during the Christmas season. All right, when you have finished with them, place them in a fence corner to serve as cover for the White-throated Sparrows. Some families will festoon their discarded Christmas tree with edible gifts for the birds. This is grand fun if there are children in the home. But to use it for shelter simply prop it up in a corner, or against a deciduous tree, and pile the other greens around the bottom. This will give dense cover all the way to the ground, and you will be surprised at how many birds will use it!

Be on the alert for unusual winter visitors at your feeding stations. Of course, your locality has a great deal to do with this. For me, a White-crowned Sparrow is rare, its appearance an occasion! In North Carolina, the Evening Grosbeaks were the most outstanding guests last year. Again I want to remind you . . . share your birds! A splendid example is re-

lated in a clipping from an article about the Grosbeaks by Edna Norrthend that was published in the *Chapel Hill Weekly* last winter. She says:

"If the Grosbeaks are near a feeding station where sunflower seeds are available, they may begin a leisurely descent from the tree-tops. This is always an exciting time for the bird watchers. It is especially so at the Matt Thompsons', for soon only the window pane separates the breakfasters within from those without! Coffee and toast are forgotten as a dozen or so Evening Grosbeaks eat sunflower seeds just a few feet away. This southern hospitality is not shared by those northern birds alone, since the guests inside at the Thompsons' breakfast table have included people who are natives of Nebraska, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut, and who had never seen the Evening Grosbeak until they met here in Chapel Hill."—A. R. F.

One of the most interesting sidelights of bird watching is brought to our attention in the following report:

Recently, in the course of an hour, my family and I watched a steady procession of birds at a feeding station outside our dining room window. We had previously read an article dealing with the "pecking privilege" of a group of hens in a barnyard, so we were interested in observing the priority

of one species of bird over the other at the feeding table.

A Chickadee and a Chipping Sparrow were feeding quietly when a Brown-headed Nuthatch flew in and chased them away. A Tufted Titmouse suddenly appeared, and the Nuthatch departed hastily! Next a pair of Cardinals arrived, scaring the Titmouse away. While the Cardinals were feeding, two of the smaller Nuthatches returned, and, hanging head downward at the sides of the station, tried to sneak in a peck here and there, retreating only when the Cardinals turned toward them.

A dog trotted across the lawn and flushed all the birds. The first to return were the Brown-headed Nuthatches. They were driven away almost immediately by their larger relative, the White-breasted Nuthatch. Then the Summer Tanagers arrived. The Nuthatch was uneasy at first, but when the Tanagers made no hostile motions, he continued feeding.

Suddenly, a Robin left off searching for worms in the grass nearby, and hopped up on the perch, at which the other birds fled. He fed alone until a Flicker arrived to run him away. The Flicker stayed only a short while, and after he had gone, the female Tanager returned, and was soon joined by a Chickadee and the two Brown-headed Nuthatches. They all fed quietly for a moment, until the male Cardinal reappeared.

At times, equal-sized birds would feed together, only occasionally glaring at each other, with beaks open and wings half-masted and quivering. Then they would resume feeding with feathers only slightly ruffled. The order of caste was sometimes interrupted when a particularly hungry small bird would chase away a larger bird whose meal had been practically completed. We all decided that the female Summer Tanager was the most courteous and tolerant, while the male Tufted Titmouse was the quickest and most belligerent.—THOMAS T. JONES, M. D., Durham, N. C., September 8, 1952.

We are delighted to have a contribution from a junior birder. I

am always glad to find the young people interested in birds and wild life, and we hope more of them will find time to write us about their experiences. Here is the letter from our first junior reporter:

What happened to me on Sunday, June 8, 1952, at Blowing Rock, North Carolina is something that I will never forget! I was playing in the woods close to a golf course with my brother, Charlie Carson, when suddenly I saw a little bird on the ground. It was crying for its mother, so I picked it up and put it on a bench about a foot away from where I was sitting. The mother bird came and fed the little bird! I was surprised that the mother wasn't afraid of me. I took the baby bird to our cottage, which was about a block away from the woods. My father said the bird was a Blue-headed Vireo. About a half an hour later, I saw the mother bird out in front of the cottage calling to her baby, which I had put in a box. I took the little bird out and held it in one hand, and the mother bird came and stood on my other hand and fed it! She did this about a dozen times that day. Before we left for home the next morning, we put the baby bird in a tree, where its mother could feed it until it could fly.—ATKINS CARSON, age 10 years, Charlotte, N. C.

In attaching boxes and feeding shelves to living tree trunks, never drive the nails in completely. Leave at least one inch. If the nails are "toe-nailed," or driven in at a slant, the support will be made even tighter as the tree grows. If driven completely in, the nail heads will inevitably pull through or break off the supports and you will probably have to replace not only a broken support but perhaps have a nest of birds rudely dumped to the ground.—J. W. E. JOYNER.

*Backyard Birding at the "Briar Patch"*—The "Briar Patch" covers about two acres. Included in this area is a small pasture, an old barn, a small chicken lot, a garden-orchard lot, and a flower garden. A small stream runs at the foot of the hill. The following trees are

on the lot: loblolly pine, ash, maple, cedar, persimmon, walnut, pecan, sycamore, sweetgum, black-gum, haw, mulberry, hackberry, red oak. The Russian olive is plentiful in the pasture and the fruit is eagerly devoured by the birds. Near the house is a long scuppernong grape arbor, several fruit trees, and a variety of shrubs and flowers. Some of the shrubs are berry-bearing and others afford nesting sites. Near the pasture fence a row of sunflowers has been planted.

To supplement the natural food supply, small chick scratch is placed on feeders, in a hopper, and scattered on the ground. When the weather is very cold more grain is scattered on the ground for the Hermit Thrushes and Towhees, as they are rather shy when so many other birds are around, although both occasionally appear on the board. Suet is provided by a friend in the market, who is interested in birds. The suet is tied to limbs of trees and shrubbery and some is placed in the wire cup on the hopper.

In addition to this, a rack was made from a six-foot limb of a pyracantha. The larger end was put in the ground. The top twigs were cut to about six inches in length. Every other one was cut off, leaving one for a perch under one for suet. Two or more pieces of suet may be stuck on the twigs. All lower twigs were cut off. The

rack is strong, but not strong enough to support a cat. The rack, feeding board, window feeder, hopper, and diner are placed in front of the window under a cedar tree and afford most interesting "movies" throughout the day at all seasons.

The mixture used in the diner and wire cup on the hopper consists of left-overs, such as: biscuits, cornbread (sometimes cracklings), loafbread, cake, white potatoes, string beans, peas, and carrots. To this are added a little bacon fat and enough corn meal or oats to mold it for the holes. The winter birds that feed regularly are: White-throats, Chickadees, Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Downy Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Pine Warblers, Myrtle Warblers, Mockingbirds, Brown Thrashers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets (sometimes the Golden-crowned), Cardinals, Fox Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Towhees, Hermit Thrushes. Evidence indicates that nesting birds carry some of the food to their young. Summer birds that come to the feeders are the Summer Tanagers and Indigo Buntings.

Plenty of water for drinking and bathing is provided by the little stream in the pasture, and by a pottery saucer under an outdoor spigot and a concrete basin at the end of the feeder board.—CLARA HEARNE, Pittsboro, N. C., June 1, 1952.



## GREENFIELD PARK NATURE MUSEUM

The long-time dream of Edna Appleberry and the Wilmington Natural Science Club for a nature museum in the Wilmington area is now a reality. Situated across the highway from Greenfield Lake and Park and next door to the small Zoo, the new museum is sponsored by the Wilmington Club and under the jurisdiction of Arnold Peterson, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. The museum, open in time for last spring's Azalea Festival, is attracting thousands of visitors. Children and adults both enjoy the museum and hover over the exhibits, which wisely are limited to the Wilmington and Cape Fear areas. For the big opening, one of the local movie theatres cooperated by putting on a complete Walt Disney nature program: *Nature's Half-Acre*, *Beaver Valley*, and *Seal Island*.

In the accompanying photograph the bird on Claude McAllister's arm is Heckle, a young Fish Crow, and the one Mrs. Appleberry holds is Henry, a Red-shouldered Hawk. Both birds live in the museum, untethered and uncaged. They were brought in as nestlings by an engineer who found them in deserted nests following some tree cutting operations.

An insect collection has been loaned by Mrs. H. E. Lane of the high school; there is a fine exhibit by the State Forestry Service, set up by Mr. Otto Hecht of the Soil Conservation District; John Funderburg has loaned his collection of mounted specimens of rails, ducks, terns, and other birds of the region. So excellent are these birds in their realistic setting that one could almost imagine the rails, in particular, might slip away through the tall grass at any moment. Children adore an intricate electrical "Bird Quiz Board" built and set up by Robert Bowden; Claude McAllister made four fine snake (live) boxes and mounted them just inside the entrance; there are other snakes in alcohol; butterflies, moths, cocoons; exhibits of shells and other sea-life of the coast, and the whole story of the conch. There are attractive displays of flowers and other plants of the region; a fascinating one of the mosses; and one of the Venus'-Flytrap and the other carnivorous plants—pitcher plants, and sun-dew.

Meanwhile, collections of scientific articles are being filed, so teachers can send students there to do research on their chosen subjects. The plan is to stress family hobbies, help teachers with their resource-use education projects, and furnish visiting scientists with information and guides.—CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN, 3320 White Oak Road, Raleigh, N. C.

*Photograph generously  
made and contributed  
by Mr. John Kelly  
of Wilmington.*

December, 1952





## EDITORIAL

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News, Reviews, Announcements

Authors, Members, Letters

Items of Interest

The cover photograph of the Red-breasted Nuthatch was made by Samuel A. Grimes at Newfound Gap in the Great Smokies, as recounted on page 81 in this issue. Mr. Grimes is one of the country's best-known wildlife photographers. Fourteen of his excellent photographs appear in that beautiful book, *South Carolina Bird Life*. The engraving was made in Mr. Grimes' own shop, the Respass-Grimes Engraving Co., Jacksonville, Fla.

The publication of the Red-breasted Nuthatch cover plate has been made possible by the kind generosity of Dr. and Mrs. C. Dale Beers. Dr. Beers is Professor of Zoology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Mrs. Beers has recently retired from the executive editorship of the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society*. Dr. Beers' valuable paper on the Brown-headed Nuthatch is a model of ornithological writing for a journal of our type.

We are deeply indebted to Mr. John Henry Dick of Dixie Plantation, near Charleston, S. C. for the three new department headings used for the first time in this issue. Four of his paintings appear in *South Carolina Bird Life*. Mr. Dick is the winner of the 1952-53 Duck Stamp design contest, and one of three artists invited to participate in the art exhibit at the 1952 meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.



Dr. J. W. P. Smithwick is, at 82 years, North Carolina's oldest practicing ornithologist. He has been a frequent contributor to *The Chat*, and an ardent and active supporter of the CBC. His first ornithological paper was published in 1891, sixty-one years ago! In 1897, Dr. Smithwick wrote "The Ornithology of North Carolina," an Experiment Station bulletin enumerating 303 forms. Dr. Smithwick's paper in this issue, containing hitherto unpublished data, adds much to our knowledge of the distribution and nesting of North Carolina birds. It has been an inspiration and pleasure to visit and work with Dr. Smithwick during the preparation of "The Birds of Bertie County." We need more such authentic local lists in both Carolinas.

The following quotation is from the August 1952 *Audubon Field Notes*, page 267: "Since the beginning of this year Mr. B. Rhett Chamberlain has been the senior editor for the Southern Atlantic Coast Region, . . . Rhett Chamberlain has assisted in the preparation of reports from this Region since 1947, and we now welcome him as the regional editor." This honor and responsibility has come to Mr. Chamberlain in proper recognition of his ability as a field ornithologist and of his discrimination in accepting sight records. Mr. Chamberlain has established a fine co-operative arrangement whereby much of the same Carolina material appears, usually in different form, in both *The Chat* and *Audubon Field Notes*. The periods covered by AFN are: Winter Season, Dec. 1—Mar. 31; Spring Migration, Apr. 1—May 31; Breeding Season, June —Aug. 15; Fall Migration, Aug. 16—Nov. 30. Mr. Chamberlain writes, "These are due at Patuxent, Maryland, by the 15th of the month following the end of the period. Therefore, they should be in my hands at Matthews, N. C., within a very few days after the end of each period, even if that requires that they be mailed a few days before the end of the period. Where the contributor is sending only a few random notes, it is better to send them promptly after observation, without regard to special periods."

Mary (Mrs. Albert) Guy became a Life Member of the Carolina Bird Club just as she was leaving for her new home in Indiana (see Sept. 1952 *Chat*, p. 60). Mrs. Guy had been planning on the Life Membership for some time, and we are delighted to know that we are to have her continued interest and support.

The Georgia Ornithological Society held its 27th semi-annual meeting on October 4-5 at Indian Springs State Park, Georgia. Mrs. George C. Potter attended as the official representative of the CBC, and read a message from Robert Overing. The program was on, "Regional Bird Problems in Georgia."

"Know Your Binoculars," a 12-page illustrated booklet by Robert J. and Elsa Reichert, gives all the general and technical information you need to make a wise binocular selection for yourself. Written in simple and interesting language, "Know Your Binoculars" is wholly unbiased and mentions no commercial concern or make. Originally published in the 1951 *Audubon Magazine*, the paper sells for ten cents. The Reicherts have offered, however, to mail a copy without charge to anyone who writes and mentions membership in the Carolina Bird Club. Address: The Reicherts, Mirakel Repair Co., Mount Vernon, N. Y.

The Distribution Office, at the State Museum in Raleigh, has frequent call for back numbers of *The Chat*, and tries to keep on hand several dozen copies of each issue. At the present time, the supply of the March 1952 *Chat* is about exhausted, and it would be greatly appreciated if members with extra copies or copies not to be kept permanently would send them in to Harry Davis. How many members are keeping a permanent file of *The Chat*?

W. L. McATEE, nationally-known biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service for nearly 50 years, retired in 1950 and chose to live in Chapel Hill because, "It is a small village, has friendly people, good library, and a moderate climate." He has been away during the summer, continuing his study of Viburnums in various Herbariums, in the University of Georgia, at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, and the Field Museum in Chicago. He also visited St. Mark's Bird Refuge in western Florida.—C.H.G.

# A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE 1952 HAWK MIGRATION PROJECT

THOMAS W. SIMPSON

Hawk migration studies conducted in North Carolina and South Carolina this fall definitely confirm the presence of a Broad-winged Hawk flyway down the Blue Ridge. The relative importance of this flyway, as compared with those along mountain ridges farther west, remains in question. Observers stationed near Roaring Gap and Blowing Rock, N. C. consistently saw Broadwinged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*), singly and in small flocks, passing in a southwesterly direction throughout September. Peak flights, in accord with those noted in Pennsylvania and Maryland, probably were during the period September 20-24. The largest single aggregation, about 120 Broad-wings, was seen at Doughton Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway on Sept. 21. These hawks were observed in flight low over the woods, shortly after a heavy morning fog had dispersed and a brisk south wind had replaced the morning calm. A small flock of 20, which had apparently just left the roosting area, was joined on a thermal up-draft by two larger flocks of about 50 each. They arose in a circling, swirling cluster to a height of about 1,000 feet, at which point each hawk in its turn assumed a long, flat glide-path toward the southwest. Many observers at the CBC meeting in that locality on the following week-end were able to witness smaller flocks of Broad-wings utilizing thermal currents in this characteristic fashion.

A particularly significant observation was that of Crunkleton, who saw 29 Broad-wings near Highlands, N. C. on Sept. 22. Below this point a long series of ridges terminates in northeastern Georgia, so that hawks migrating down the mountains find themselves at the "end of the line." Observations in this general region next year may serve to clarify the mode of hawk flight after leaving the mountains—another unsettled point in these studies.

In addition to Broad-winged Hawks, observers reported Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles, Marsh Hawks, Pigeon Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, and Sparrow Hawks. Most of these were proceeding, like the Broad-wings, in a generally southwestward direction. A large proportion of these apparently migrating hawks passed unidentified because of distance, visibility conditions, and the intellectual honesty of our observers.

Contributing to the success of this study during the month of September were: Tolliver Crunkleton, E. R. Cuthbert, John R. Dapper, Cary Harrison, Mrs. J. B. Harrison, Ethel Klemm, Genevieve Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. May, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Parks, Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Berniece Thomas, and Mrs. C. S. Warren. Reports of several other participants had not been received at the time of writing. In addition to these, many capable observers took part in the all-day hawk watching along the Blue Ridge Parkway, at the time of the fall meeting, Sept. 27-28. A detailed summary of the results obtained in this cooperative 1952 hawk migration study will be presented at the end of the season's observations.—*Winston-Salem, N. C., Oct. 10, 1952.*

## BIRDS OF BERTIE COUNTY SIXTY YEARS AGO

J. W. P. SMITHWICK, M. D.

These observations of the bird life in Bertie County, N. C., cover a period of ten years, from 1885 to 1895. Bertie County is in the northeastern part of the State between the Roanoke and Chowan Rivers, and the Cashie River and several large creeks, Salmon, Cashoke, and Grinnell, are within its borders. It has extensive forests and swamps, all of which make it an ideal place for land birds of all kinds. Water birds are not usually seen except in the southern tip of the county at the confluence of the Roanoke and Chowan Rivers to begin the Albemarle Sound.

The Common Loon was noted as a not very common winter resident on the larger water courses, but the Red-throated Loon was not identified. Several people were seen wearing caps made from the skins of loons caught in nets and seines during the spring fishing season.

An occasional Pied-billed Grebe was noted on the creeks and rivers at all seasons. One nest was located May 30, 1890, placed in a quiet bay on Grinnell Creek. It was a bulky, matted affair of dead vegetation, weeds, reeds, and bull-rushes, floating and anchored in place with a few green rushes. It held five dirty-white eggs.

No pelicans, cormorants, anhingas, ibises, gulls, terns, or skimmers were identified. Some may have occurred at the southern tip of the county.

Recorded of the family *Ardeidae* were American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, and Green Heron, the first two being residents, the last two summer visitors. In the spring of 1890, I examined a nesting colony of 60 or 75 pairs, mostly Little Blues. All nests appeared to be occupied with either eggs or young birds. There were eight or ten pairs of Green Herons nesting with the Little Blues. The next season when I visited the place not a heron could be seen.

Several varieties of ducks were present at various times, but the Wood Duck was the only one positively identified. They were found along the creeks at all seasons, and several nests were located, all placed in cavities in trees. Broods of young ones could occasionally be seen swimming with the old one in the spring of the year. Several Mallards were reported shot on the creeks. The Canada Goose was a winter visitor, and could be seen in the daytime and heard at night flying over.

The two Vultures, Turkey and Black, were common residents, but the Turkey outnumbered the Black three to one. Two nests of the Turkey Vulture were located but none of the Black.

The Marsh Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Sparrow Hawk were commonly seen throughout the period of observation, all nesting. The Sharp-shinned Hawk was only occasionally noted, and no nests were found. I found one nest of the Marsh Hawk, April 19, 1891. It was placed on the ground in a meadow which was covered with a last year's growth of broom-sedge. The bird was flushed while I was walking and flew off out of sight. The nest had four half-grown hawks in it. Two weeks later when I returned it was empty.

Bald Eagles were noted each year at different times. A pair had a nest about 80 feet up in the dead top of a cypress tree near the mouth of Cashie

River, three miles from my home, which they occupied year after year. I watched old ones feeding young on several occasions. Ospreys could often be seen on the larger water courses, and several nests were located.

Bob-whites were plentiful. Several coveys could be flushed almost any afternoon during fall and winter. A great many nests were found. I once caught thirteen fine birds in a trap at one time.

Wild Turkeys were common for birds of their size. I tracked and flushed a few but never shot one. My gun was always in the other place. Six or seven nests were recorded, containing eight to fourteen eggs each. The nests were placed in secluded places, usually in brush heaps.

The King Rail was recorded as a resident, rare in winter. The Clapper Rail was a common resident. Nests of both species were found. A Florida Gallinule was shot in the spring of 1890, which was one of the first records for North Carolina.

No plovers were seen except the Killdeer, and they came early in the fall and left in the spring, usually the latter part of April. They were more common in the spring.

The American Woodcock was a fairly common resident, and often could be flushed in marshy places. I found three nests, one in each year 1890, 1891, and 1893. They were located within half a mile of each other, and the location and surroundings of each were very similar. Each nest had four eggs. They might have belonged to the same pair of birds. Wilson's Snipe was of about the same occurrence during the winter season.

Mourning Doves were very common residents, nesting throughout the summer, laying two white eggs in a poorly constructed nest. One afternoon I saw a fight between a black snake and a pair of Doves. I was attracted by the action of the Doves flying excitedly in and out of a small pine tree. I investigated and found a black snake up the tree within three or four feet of the nest and the Doves were darting at him. I threw a stick up the tree and the snake fell out and went off through the underbrush. The nest held two birds two or three days old.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a common summer resident, and several nests were found. The Black-billed Cuckoo was observed rather rarely and one nest was found, May 19, 1896; it held three eggs.

Screech Owls, Great-horned Owls, and Barn Owls were all residents, the Great-horned being the rarest, and all nesting. They were all fairly common for birds of their kind.

The three goatsuckers, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, and Nighthawk, were common summer residents, all nesting, the Nighthawk being the most common, the Whip-poor-will the rarest. I found eight or ten nests of the Chuck-will's-widow and only one of the Whip-poor-will.

Chimney Swifts were rather common during the summer, building their nests in chimneys. None were observed after August. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was a summer resident, being everywhere there were flowers; several nests were found.

Kingfishers were seen along the creeks and rivers at all seasons of the year. Nests were placed in holes tunneled by the birds in the banks of rivers and creeks, one nest at a place.

Woodpeckers were abundant. The Flicker was the most common, and the Pileated the rarest and most interesting. Hairy, Downy, Red-cockaded, Red-

headed, and Red-bellied were common residents and all breeding. Two nests of the Pileated were found, one in a dead cypress tree about 40 feet up with two fresh eggs, the other in a dead pine stump about 30 feet up with three slightly incubated eggs. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a winter resident, not many seen.

Eastern Kingbirds, Acadian Flycatchers, Wood Pewees, and Crested Flycatchers were all common summer residents, usually arriving in April. The Phoebe was a resident. Nests of all were found.

Purple Martins and Rough-winged Swallows were common summer residents, the Martins nesting in boxes and gourds provided for them around the farm houses, the Swallows in banks along the creeks and rivers. The Tree, Barn, and Cliff Swallows were all noted as common transients, more common during the spring migration.

Blue Jays were common residents and nested. Ravens were recorded at irregular intervals as rare winter visitors. They were observed during stormy weather, usually one, rarely two, flying low over the tops of trees along the courses of the big swamps. They were much larger than Crows and I was satisfied they were Ravens.

American and Fish Crows were residents, the American being more common. Both nested, but only one nest of the Fish Crow was recorded. It was in a small pine tree, about 30 feet up, near the bank of the Cashie River, and held four eggs. The nests of the American Crow were all found on upland terrain and were placed in taller trees, from 30 to 70 feet up. I never saw the two species nesting near each other. The nests of all were found during the latter part of April.

The White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Chickadee were common residents, all nesting. The Brown-headed Nuthatch was most common, nesting in cavities dug by the birds in stumps and in dead limbs of living trees. I never saw them nesting in man-made structures.

A very few Brown Creepers were noted during the winter. It was a bird of the deep woods and of solitary habits, being rarely found with other birds.

Carolina and Winter Wrens were noted, the Carolina being a common resident and breeding, the Winter being a winter visitor only, not so common.

Mockingbirds, Catbirds, and Brown Thrashers were all residents, all breeding. The Catbirds and Brown Thrashers were not so common in winter as in summer.

The Robin was a common winter visitor, coming in great flocks at times and feeding on black gum berries in the swamps. None were noted during the summer.

The Wood Thrush was a common summer visitor and nested. It was our finest songster of the woods, and frequently I heard half a dozen or more singing at a time on the hillsides near my home after a summer shower. The Hermit Thrush was a winter visitor, fairly common. The Bluebird was a common resident, nesting; several pairs could usually be seen around almost any farm.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a rather common summer visitor. Nests were found placed similarly to those of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, on limbs from 25 to 70 feet up, and holding four eggs. The Kinglets, Golden-

crowned and Ruby-crowned, were regular winter visitors, arriving the latter part of November and leaving early in March.

The Cedar Waxwing was an irregular, erratic winter visitor.

The White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos were common summer visitors, and several nests of each were found, hung in the forks of limbs, containing three and four eggs.

The Pine Warbler was a common resident. Nests were always placed on horizontal limbs of pine trees, 30 to 70 feet up, and all I examined had four eggs. It was a bird of the "Piney Woods." Prothonotary, Parula, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Ovenbird, Louisiana Water-Thrush, and Hooded Warblers were all common summer visitors, and nests of all were found. One nest of the Ovenbird was found, May 19, 1892; it was placed on the ground with a canopy of grasses and leaves, and had four white, speckled-with-brown eggs. Two nests of the Louisiana Water-Thrush were found, one in April 1888 and one in May 1893. A nest of the Prothonotary Warbler was found in a cavity near the top of a beech stump, about five feet up, containing three eggs, in the spring of 1893; I think this was the first record for North Carolina. The Black and White and Worm-eating Warblers were rare summer visitors, and one nest of the Worm-eating was found but none of the Black and White. The Myrtle Warbler was a common winter visitor. The Black-throated Blue Warbler was a rather rare migrant.

House Sparrows were abundant residents in towns and villages, and a few could be found in the country.

Bobolinks were erratic transient visitors, usually in the spring, sometimes appearing in large flocks and doing much damage to small grain. The Meadowlark was a common resident, breeding; it was more common in winter than summer. The Orchard Oriole was a rare summer visitor; one nest was found. The Purple Grackle was a common winter visitor, coming in great flocks at times during the cold months. A few Boat-tailed Grackles could usually be seen with the Purple.

Cowbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds were residents and bred. Single eggs of the Cowbird were found in several nests of the Red-winged Blackbird on several occasions, and young Cowbirds were found in the nests of the Blackbirds on two occasions.

Summer Tanagers were common summer visitors and several nests were recorded.

Cardinals were seen at all times, and nests were recorded. Indigo Buntings were not very common in summer and nested. The Towhee was a common winter resident; two birds observed on two occasions in June one year acted as if they were nesting.

The Chipping and Field Sparrows were common residents, breeding. The Vesper, White-throated, Savannah, Song, Fox, and Swamp Sparrows were all winter visitors, as was the Slate-colored Junco. Bachman's Sparrow was a common summer resident, a few wintering; one nest, canopied and with four white eggs in it, was found placed on the ground by the side of a large clump of broom-sedge.

The following nine species of land birds probably occurred, but were not identified: Horned Lark, Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-throated Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Blue Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Goldfinch.—*LaGrange, N. C., August 18, 1952.*



## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing,  
Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

General Field Notes celebrates no particular birthday with this issue, but we are getting on. Doubtless we have been a sore disappointment to some of our contributors. Not all of them have comforted us. Be that as it may, we want your field notes. You may never see them in our columns. Relative importance of material and *Chat*-space will determine that. But you may be assured that all valid records sent in become a part of the steadily increasing volume of Carolina bird lore that will be available for publication in any revisions of our bird books.—B.R.C.

**High Winds, Herons, and Ibises.**—The hurricane that struck the South Carolina coast Aug. 30, 1952, brought in a number of unusual birds to our central section of the State. Rains flooded several of the fields nearby, and among them were the broad pastures of the Wateree Hereford Farm near Columbia. These flats provided temporary stopping places for the water birds driven inland. On Sept. 1 Mrs. Clyde Sisson and I identified 75 to 100 Black Terns in immature or fall plumage. There were Snowy Egrets, American Egrets, a large number of Little Blue Herons, and a single immature White Ibis. On Sept. 2 there were 9 White Ibises, and on the following day 11 of them among the egrets and herons. Some of the Ibises had darker wings than others, and one was almost completely turned. On that day 34 Little Blues were present, a few adults among them. By Sept. 13 the water had mostly dried up but the fields were filled with large and healthy-looking grasshoppers. I counted 14 White Ibises and 61 Little Blues. The birds left the area a few days later when the water dried up.—ANNIE R. FAVER, *Eastover, S. C.*

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nesting in Guilford County, N. C.**—The nest of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron was found on May 3, 1952 about one-half mile south of the city limits of High Point, Guilford County. At that time an adult in mature plumage was on the nest and did not fly while I circled the tree containing it. The nest was on a 4-inch horizontal limb, about 10 feet from the trunk and 45 feet high, in a short-leaf pine. It was located where branching twigs gave additional support. The pine was about 65 feet high and 14 inches in diameter, was open, and there were no limbs on the side of the tree below the nest. The tree was situated in dry mixed woods with other pines, red maple, and tulip poplar nearby. There was little understory

growth and the nest was plainly visible from the ground over a considerable area. An Oven-bird nested near the foot of the pine.

All observations were in late afternoon from about 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. On May 4, 6, and 10 a bird in immature plumage was on the nest. On the 10th, after I had circled the nest noisily, it flew off to a limb a few feet away where it was in full view. It was without any sign of the mature head plumage and in characteristic immature plumage. On May 13, 17, and 26 the bird in mature plumage was on. On June 10 the mature plumage bird was standing upright on the nest while two large nestlings, feathered but with fuzzy down still standing out on their heads, thrashed about.

At various times until June 29 the young were observed standing on the nest, always with one or the other of the adults in attendance. On June 29, the last day seen at the nest, the young and the adult in immature plumage were in the pine tree and all on limbs some distance from the nest. They were almost indistinguishable. The white edge of the wing lining was clear on all.

The space under the nest was discolored with tan droppings, very similar to Barred Owl pellets in size, shape and composition, appearing to be almost purely crayfish shell. Pieces of crayfish were scattered about.

The area includes numerous artificial lakes and scattered streams. The nest was about 50 yards from a corn field and not far from heavily traveled roads. It is my opinion that Yellow-crowned Night Herons have nested in this area for at least the two years preceding.—JAMES MATTOCKS, *High Point, N. C.*—Of interest in this connection is a nest found in a very similar location in Mecklenburg County in May 1946 (*Chat* 11:18). Also a recent note from Mrs. A. G. Guy reports Yellow-crowned Night Herons in adult and juvenile plumage during June, July, and August, 1952, in the Ellerbee Creek lowlands near Durham, N. C.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Notes from Spartanburg, S. C.**—Seldom do we have two such unusual experiences as did Harold Correll and myself on May 8, 1952. We were checking on the Zimmerman Lake area that morning and we saw 6 young Canada Geese swimming across the lake under the convoy of their parents. We had heard that they had hatched 10 days or 2 weeks before this date, but we had not seen them. For the past 12 to 15 years a small number of wild geese have lived on a little island in this lake, and raised young, but we have not often seen the little fellows.

After watching the goslings, we moved over to the sewage disposal plant where we had located a Killdeer's nest with 4 eggs on April 16. We found the nest intact but with no bird close by and decided that there had been too much activity about the nest and that it had been abandoned. After a half-hour search for another nest, Correll took a final look at the 4 eggs and called me. We were just in time to see the large end of one of the eggs split open and to watch a young Killdeer wiggle out. We were unable to remain at the nest, but Ruth Crick checked during the afternoon and found 3 young hatched. On our next visit the nest was empty.—GABRIEL CANNON, *Spartanburg, S. C.*

**Rails at Beaufort, N. C.**—On Sept. 20, 1952, David A. Adams, a student at N. C. State College, went to Beaufort for the purpose of shooting rails in the marshes there. At the North River bridge, 10 miles north of Beaufort, he saw 12 Clapper Rails, 2 Virginia Rails, 2 Soras, and 2 Yellow Rails. Of the Yellow Rails, he says: "They were observed close at hand and flew, rail-like, about 50 feet before pitching in. Neither could be jumped again. They were smaller than Soras, were definitely yellowish with dark streaks on the back, and had the rail-like beak. I feel sure they were Yellow Rails."—T. L. QUAY, *Raleigh, N. C.* (It appears most likely that these were Yellow Rails. However, most records have been based upon specimens killed by dogs or farm machinery. So close do they keep to grasses that few people have seen them alive and still fewer have seen them on the wing.—*Dept. Ed.*)

**Bridled Tern on the South Carolina Coast.**—During the night of August 30, 1952, a tropical hurricane came ashore on the South Carolina coast, the eye

of the storm passing some 37 miles west of Charleston. On the following afternoon, the writer and his son went to the Isle of Palms, near that city, and walked some six miles of beach, looking for possible evidences of birds blown up from the south. One such was discovered. Though extremely bedraggled and already beginning to decompose, examination of it on the spot led us to conclude that it was a specimen of the Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus melanoptera*). It was either not quite adult or was undergoing a moult. Both of us having had experience with this tropical species at the Dry Tortugas and adjacent waters, we felt fairly sure of the identity, but of course brought the bird in, and that night compared it with a specimen in the collection of the writers. The next morning, further comparison was made with specimens in the Charleston Museum. The identity was thereby confirmed. Parts of the specimen have been preserved. This is, as far as we know, the seventh recorded occurrence of this tern in South Carolina.—  
ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., ALEXANDER SPRUNT, 4th, *Charleston, S. C.*

**Barred Owl Preys Upon Trout.**—The following story was told to me by Refuge Manager Lee Boone of the Mt. Mitchell Wildlife Management Area: Last March, Rainbow Trout were found to be disappearing from one of the holding pools at the refuge. That pool was kept under close watch by the manager and his assistant for several weeks, with no success. As a final measure, traps were set about the pool. Among them were two pole-mounted traps. After the first night, one of these held a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). An examination of the crop and stomach showed that the bird had been eating a quantity of Rainbow Trout. There was no further loss of fish from the holding pool.—EDWARD RAY SMITH, *District Biologist, Wildlife Resources Commission, Morganton, N. C.* “Fish, within their capabilities,” is listed as part of the diet of the Barred Owl in Bent’s *Life Histories of N. A. Birds of Prey*.—Dept. Ed.

**Additional Barn Swallow Breeding Records.**—(See *The Chat* 16:63, Barn Swallow Breeding in Alleghany and Watauga Counties, N. C.)—From 1908 to 1920 I was living in Boone, Watauga County. During that period the Barn Swallow was a not rare summer resident there. Two nesting sites I remember especially. One was on the front of the D. D. Dougherty residence. The other was in a similar position at the W. L. Bryan residence, almost over the sidewalk on the main street of the village. Visiting in Boone in the summer of 1944 I checked to see whether swallows were still nesting in the town. Twelve-year old Gordon Hartzog, whom I asked about Barn Swallows, directed me to a nest on the top of a column at the front of the public school building. The swallows were feeding young. I saw at least three adults. For the last four summers, including this year, from one to three pairs of Barn Swallows have nested in a barn belonging to Fred H. Brown, on Brown Chapel Road, one mile off Highway 421, less than five miles from Boone as the swallow flies.—ROY M. BROWN, *Chapel Hill, N. C.*

**Purple Martin: Attachment for Locality.**—At Lumberton, N. C., in the spring of 1952, the first Purple Martin was observed on the morning of March 11, high in the air, coasting on the gusts of a strong southwesterly wind. The sight of this lone martin reminded me that I had neglected to provide gourds for the returning birds. That afternoon at 5 o’clock I was busy erecting a martin pole in a corner of the farm pasture, in the same location as in previous years. I carelessly scattered the gourds on the ground, and after a few moments of digging I paused in my work and I was delighted to see six martins perched on the gourds, even before they were attached to the pole! As rapidly as possible I erected the pole and amid much chirping the birds entered the gourds and settled down for the night.—JAMES L. STEPHENS, JR., *Lumberton, N. C.*

**Purple Martin: Large Summer Population at Greensboro, N. C.**—We have 92 Purple Martin gourds on our place this year, almost all of which were filled. Fifty were strung on one pole, 30 on a second one, and 12 were grouped on a 15-20 foot pipe the old fashioned way. This neighborhood has

become a real center for the Purple Martin. Besides the gourds I have erected, a score or more neighbors have gourds for martins. Usually there are at least a dozen per pole, sometimes there are 4 to 6 poles. In one place a number of small boys put up paint cans, gourds, soap boxes, and almost anything else, and practically filled them; as I remember, they had around 40 pairs of birds. The owner of a filling station, a mile from here, put up a dozen gourds the last of April, 1951, on an iron pipe directly in front of his place and in the very busiest spot; within 24 hours all were filled. He moved the pole this year about 50 feet, where it wasn't in the way. It housed 12 pairs. I can think of 100 occupied gourds within 5 minutes driving time of here.

The martins came late this year. I prepare for them to come about March 3 or 4 as a rule, but this year my first ones came March 17 or 18, and drifted in until nearly May 1. They usually leave about August 4. This year nearly all have left within the past week.—WESLEY TAYLOR, M.D., *Justamere Farm, Greensboro, N. C.*, July 24, 1952.

**Albino Eastern Kingbird.**—On July 18, 1952, while driving from Winston-Salem to Kernersville, N. C., I observed an albino bird. It was with 2 adult Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) and a young one. All 4 birds were perched in the same dead tree about 50 feet from the highway, going through the bug catching gyrations from limbs of the tree. For this reason, it is assumed that the albino was an Eastern Kingbird, also. My two companions and I watched these birds for about 5 minutes.—CHARLES M. FROST, *Winston-Salem, N. C.* (We are grateful for an excellent piece of factual reporting.—Dept. Ed.)

**The House Wren in Watauga County, N. C.**—As a boy on a farm five miles east of Boone, on top of the Blue Ridge, I early learned to know a number of the more common birds there, including the "wren." When several years later, then a resident of Boone, I became interested in knowing all of the birds of the region I found that there was more than one wren. I learned to know the Carolina Wren. I identified Bewick's Wren. I met the Winter Wren, in summer, and heard his song on Grandfather Mountain. The "wren" of my childhood became the House Wren.

In 1918 I reported a House Wren in a Christmas bird census. Mr. C. S. Brimley challenged the report. I replied that I could have been mistaken; that I had had a rather poor view of the bird in a brush-pile; that it "looked like a House Wren." Mr. Brimley then suggested that I had never seen a House Wren, which, he said, was a rare migrant in North Carolina. The first edition of *Birds of North Carolina*, 1919, repeated this statement.

Soon after this I moved away from the mountains and for several years had little opportunity to study wrens. In 1924, however, after observing some wrens near Bakersville, Mitchell County, I wrote Mr. Brimley that I was still disturbed about the wrens. He then wrote (May 8, 1924) that the House Wren "ought, according to its range, to nest in the mountains but as far as we know it does not." The new edition of *Birds of North Carolina*, 1942, says of the House Wren: "Suddenly, in 1922, they began to appear in the State as summer residents."

Several years ago Mrs. Brown and I built a summer cabin on a part of the farm on which I was born and have been spending part of each summer there. I have been on the alert for wrens. For several summers we had Bewick's Wrens but no House Wrens. In 1950 we went up the last week in May. As we were opening the cabin and unpacking a wren was singing nearby. Presently I became aware that it was not a Bewick's Wren. I went to investigate and found a House Wren. I soon located the nest and found also that there were two males singing. Within a week the second pair built a nest in a second bird box.

In 1951 we had Bewick's Wren, but no House Wren. I saw a pair of House Wrens around a barn half a mile away.

*These are House Wrens.* Not only are the Wrens which in 1950 nested at our Rutherford cabin House Wrens, but they are, I am confident, the "wren" of my childhood—the same sort of wren that sixty years earlier built a nest

in the root of an upturned chestnut tree within 150 yards of the 1950 nests, and on several successive mornings retarded my progress in driving up the cows to be milked.—ROY M. BROWN, Chapel Hill, N. C., May 6, 1952. (For an analysis of the recent breeding-range extension of the House Wren, see Odum and Johnston, *The Auk* 68: 357-366.—*Dept. Ed.*)

**Yellow-headed Blackbird at Raleigh, N. C.**—An adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) was taken in a Mourning Dove trap at Raleigh, N. C., on August 15, 1952. The bird was in second-winter plumage, the first postnuptial molt having been completed except for the ear patch. This is apparently the first specimen of this species to be collected in North Carolina. The skin is now in the North Carolina State College collection (see accompanying photographs). The first published sight record for the Yellow-headed Blackbird in North Carolina was made by R. L. Wolff on January 11, 1952, at New Holland (*The Chat* 16:26). *South Carolina Bird Life* lists one skin and one sight record for that State.—T. L. QUAY and W. A. GOODSON, JR., October 15, 1952.



**Scarlet Tanager Breeding (?) in Forsyth County, N. C.**—An unusual resident with us in Winston-Salem this summer was the Scarlet Tanager, which we have not found breeding here to date. A pair was first seen on May 15, already mated. The female was seen carrying nesting material into an immense white oak in our yard, May 24, but we were never able to see the nest. The male was observed feeding the female on June 2. They were last seen together on July 17, and the male has not been seen since. An immature male (only lesser and middle wing-coverts jet black) was seen first on August 11, attempting to sing but producing something decidedly atypical. Such an individual and at least one female were still with us on Sept. 7.—T. W. and D. C. SIMPSON, Winston-Salem, N. C.

**Painted Bunting in Lower Richland County, South Carolina.**—Although I had heard that Nonpariels had formerly been known to nest in that point of lowland lying between the swamps of the Congaree and Wateree rivers

that forms Lower Richland, I had never succeeded in finding the birds until this year. On the afternoon of April 25, 1952, Mrs. Clyde Sisson located a singing male about half way up in a large oak tree along the dirt road at the old railroad stop of "Acton." The very next afternoon we saw a male again in the same place. On June 4 Mrs. Sisson came from Columbia, and we hurried to the Acton area where we saw and heard two male Painted Buntings singing, saw two females on the power line over a water-hole, and heard the song of another across the highway in the same kind of habitat. On June 23 Mr. W. F. B. Haynsworth came over from Sumter, and we saw one male Painted Bunting in exactly the same kind of terrain in which he had found them nesting directly across the Wateree River in Sumter County. Mrs. Sisson and I saw two young birds and a male perched on the fence along the road on July 18. On July 26, on passing along this road, we saw and heard the male singing from an oak tree. On July 30 I saw the female in dull brownish plumage feeding along the edge of the ditch under the tree. The birds were feeding on the Johnson grass seeds on several occasions. No nests were located, but the presence of the immature birds establishes the fact that these birds did nest in this area.—ANNIE R. FAVER, *Eastover, S. C.*

**Nocturnal Migration Study.**—During the past fall, the nationwide survey of birds tallied against the moon was participated in by several Carolina birders. At this writing (Oct. 18), we are able to report briefly on two of them. At Rocky Mount, N. C., Bill Joyner and George Wyatt "operated for a total of 12 hours in Sept., and counted 150 birds and 18 bats. During the evening of Sept. 3 they came so fast that counting had to be suspended for several minutes to allow the recorder to catch up." Much of their October moon was clouded out, but for brief periods the flights were good. At Charlotte, N. C., Rhett Chamberlain and family, Olin Wearn, Sarah Nooe, and Leeds Cushman watched the October moon for much of two nights. On the night of the 3rd some 430 birds were counted. For a 6½ hour period the passage rate was 1.1 birds a minute. We believe that is a fairly heavy concentration. The nocturnal study is directed by Messrs. Lowery and Newman of the Museum of Zoology of Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, La. We should like to have summaries of the results of other Carolina watchers.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

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#### Briefs for the Files

**Wilson's Petrel**, single bird found dying on the beach at Masonboro, N. C., Aug. 26, 1952, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry. **Water Turkey**, 1 at Zimmerman's Lake, Spartanburg, S. C., July 26 and 27, 1952, Monie Hudson, Gabriel Cannon. **Glossy Ibis**, 2 at herony at New Topsail Inlet, N. C., thought to be nesting, May 10, 1952, Claude W. Rankin, Jr. **White Ibis**, 4 immature at Lennon's Marsh, Lumberton, N. C., July 31, 1952, James L. Stephens, Jr. **Marsh Hawk**, 1 on Pea Island, N. C., July 23, 1952, J. W. E. Joyner. **Pigeon Hawk**, 1 at Wrightsville Beach, N. C., Sept. 12, 1952, Robert Holmes, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry. **King Rail**, 2 adults and 5 half-grown young flushed near Durham, N. C., May 30, 1952, A. G. Guy. **Florida Gallinule**, 1 accidentally killed by mowing machine near Chapel Hill, N. C., Sept. 27, 1952, Roy M. Brown. **Killdeer**, nest with 3 eggs found at Camp Barstow, near Columbia, S. C., Mar. 28, 1952, David Y. Monteith. **Upland Plover**, 1 watched for half an hour at Mountain Park, Elkin, N. C., Apr. 20, 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Linville L. Hendren. **Solitary Sandpiper**, 1 seen in company with Spotted Sandpiper, Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, N. C., July 11 and 12, 1952, T. W. Simpson. **Black-necked Stilt**, 2 at Smith's Dairy, Wilmington, N. C., May 1, 1952, 1 remained until May 13, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry and party. **Gull-billed Tern**, several watched at length scooping up "silver fish" from shallow water left by retreating waves on beach near Charleston, S. C., Aug. 17, 1952, Ellison Williams. **Least Tern**, 1 at Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 10, 1952, Steve Messenger fide T. L. Quay. **Cedar Waxwing**, small flock at Charlotte, N. C., May 11, 1952, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. **Prothonotary Warbler**, 1 at Zimmerman's Lake,

Spartanburg, S. C., July 26, 1952, Hudson fide Gabriel Cannon. Swainson's Warbler, 1 at Bee's Ferry Road, Charleston, S. C., Aug. 17, 1952, Robert H. Coleman. Nashville Warbler, 1 studied at length at Winghaven, Charlotte, N. C., Oct. 5, 6, & 7, 1952, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1 singing at Winghaven, Charlotte, N. C., May 7, 1952, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. Indigo Bunting, 1 male at Matthews, N. C., Mar. 30, 1952, Norman Chamberlain. Purple Finch, 1 at Charlotte, N. C., Apr. 29, 1952, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. Grasshopper Sparrow, several pairs and 1 young, near Columbia, S. C., July 30, 1952, Mrs. W. H. Faver. Vesper Sparrow, 15 or more at Wilmington, N. C., 1 carrying food, July 16, 1952, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry. Song Sparrow, a brood well feathered and out of nest at Henderson, N. C., July 21, 1952, Mrs. A. W. Bachman; several singing in town of Hatteras, N. C., July 23, 1952, J. W. E. Joyner. Late item: House Wren, 1 singing at Linville Falls, N. C., July 27, 1952, J. Weston Clinard.—Dept. Ed.

### Additions to *South Carolina Bird Life*

On November 19, 1949 the following telegram was received by the writer from Frank Wardlaw, of the University of South Carolina Press: "Books received from printer today mailing copy Charleston regards." This message referred to the appearance of *South Carolina Bird Life*, by Sprunt and Chamberlain. That was practically three years ago to the day, as the writer puts down these lines.

Illustrative of the fact that science, as well as other phases of life, does not stand still, the following is offered to show what can happen to a "state" bird book in three years, as a result of the continued efforts of careful observers.

The writer was provided with an inter-leaved copy of the volume by the Charleston Museum; that is, a volume which carries, between each page of the species accounts, a blank sheet on which notations can be made as occasion arises. An examination of this volume, with its resulting notations which the writer has earnestly endeavored to keep up to date, shows some interesting additions. These are provided herewith for the interest which he hopes some of the members of the Carolina Bird Club may have in ornithological happenings in South Carolina.

Category	Number of Species
Added to State List by Secured Specimen .....	1
Added to State Hypothetical List (sight) .....	5
Extension of Breeding Range .....	4
Additional Records of Rare Breeders .....	3
Additional Occurrences of Rare Species .....	17
Extension of Arrival and Departure Dates of Migrants .....	28

ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. C.*

### The Christmas Census

As stated on the President's page in this issue, the dates for the 1952 Christmas census are Saturday, December 20 through Sunday, December 28. There are three important parts to census taking: *preparation, counting, and recording*. We are interested in all three, but recording is our responsibility, and responsibilities with a dead-line can be burdensome. Our finished copy must be in the printer's hands by January 27. Prior to that time, all data must be screened and tabulated. It will be most helpful if the compilers will keep this in mind and mail their material promptly to B. R. Chamberlain, Rt. 1, Matthews, N. C. Established rules of the National Audubon Society will apply; reports of previous years may be examined for details.—B.R.C.

## New and Re-instated Members, Aug. 2-Oct. 25, 1952

### Life Member

Guy, Mrs. Albert, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana

### Supporting Members

Calhoun, Ralph E., 2718 Picardy Place, Charlotte, N. C.  
 Cutts, Ernest R., Rt. 4, Charleston, S. C.  
 Dick, John H., Dixie Plantation, Meggett, S. C.  
 Dingle, Edward von Siebold, Huger, S. C.  
 McRae, Miss Gertrude H., Rockingham, N. C.

### Regular Members

Adams, Mrs. Donald K., 2508 Cornwallis Rd. Durham, N. C.  
 Barnard, Margaret E., Social Service Dept., Veterans Administration, Knoxville, Tenn.  
 Beeson, J. H., P. O. Box 106, Elkin, N. C.  
 Behrend, Fred W., 607 Range St., Elizabethton, Tenn.  
 Benbow, Mrs. C. D., 1521 Lafayette Ave., Rocky Mount, N. C.  
 Bennett, Esther, Southern Ill. University Museum, Carbondale, Ill.  
 Borders, Mrs. Ruth C., 226 5th St. S. E., Hickory, N. C.  
 Bull, Mrs. C. O., Cameron, S. C.  
 Burrell, Mrs. V. G., Box 1267, Florence, S. C.  
 Burroughs, Franklin G., Box 7, Conway, S. C.  
 Burton, E. Milby, Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.  
 Carr, Clara, LaGrange, N. C.  
 Carson, J. H., 1205 Biltmore Drive, Charlotte, N. C.  
 Chalmers, Mrs. E. M., 213 Ash Ave., Raleigh, N. C.  
 Chapel Hill Jr. Bird Club, Chapel Hill, N. C.  
 Copeland, Margaret E., 606 Buchanan Blvd., Durham, N. C.  
 Covington, Frances, Box 83, Troy, N. C.  
 DeLong, Thomas S., Box 4546, Duke Station, Durham, N. C.  
 Dorsey, George, Darlington School, Rome, Ga.  
 Ennett, Mrs. N. T., Beaufort, N. C.  
 Evans, Mrs. Hervey, Laurinburg, N. C.  
 Everson, Mrs. N. E., 4710 Park Ave., Wilmington, N. C.  
 Fordham, Stephen C., Jr., Delmar Game Farm, Delmar, N. Y.  
 Garland, Patrick, 83 Mansion Ave., Cresskill, N. J.  
 Geis, Mrs. Willis, 66 Hendric Ave., Riverside, Conn.  
 Gibson, A. B., McLean St., Laurinburg, N. C.  
 Gilliam, Mrs. Nora W., Traphill, N. C.  
 Gleaton, Mrs. David V., Springfield, S. C.  
 Grant, Mrs. E. G., Lake Shore Drive, Columbia, S. C.  
 Gray, Mrs. Bowman, Brookberry Farm, Winston-Salem, N. C.  
 Gregory, Mrs. J. M., 509 Compton Place, Durham, N. C.  
 Grimes, Mrs. Marie Moorman, P. O. Box 555, Clemson, S. C.  
 Hair, Mrs. Gladys R., 149 W. Bridge St., St. Matthews, S. C.  
 Halstead, Robert, P. O. Box 506, Washington, N. C.  
 Haney, Mrs. John W., Box 991, Tryon, N. C.  
 Harper, M. D., La Grange, N. C.  
 Hay, Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, R.F.D. 1, Black Mountain, N. C.  
 Hight, Gordan L., Jr., Box 271, Rome, Ga.  
 Hughes, Gilbert C., III, Box 701, Collegeboro, Ga.  
 Ivey, Mrs. W. P., 1012 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle, N. C.  
 Jones, Thomas J., 1811 West Pettigrew St., Durham, N. C.  
 Jowers, Mrs. Mae W., 2366 Edinburg Ter., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
 Joyner, Dr. J. Y., La Grange, N. C.  
 Keller, Dale F., Rt. 7, Box 582, Greensboro, N. C.  
 Lancaster, Robert W., Box 325, Boone, N. C.  
 Lane, Mrs. Nell Durham, 307 Chestnut St., Wilmington, N. C.  
 Laskey, Mrs. Amelia B., 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 12, Tenn.  
 Lofton, Mrs. T. L., Jr., McClellanville, S. C.  
 Lowman, Ruth, P. O. Box 292, Wilmington, N. C.  
 Lord, William, Blue Ridge Parkway, Box 1710, Roanoke, Va.  
 Lyon, E. R., Laurinburg, N. C.  
 Maulsby, Ben, Box 906, Rome, Ga.  
 Mayer, Brem, 85 Patton Hall, Princeton, N. J.  
 Messenger, Aubrey, Box 4539 State College, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Millsaps, Vera, 1425 Rhode Island Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C.  
 Montgomery, Mrs. Kenneth, 230 Valencia Rd., West Palm Beach, Fla.  
 Noble, Robert Cutler, 2717 Fairview Rd., Raleigh, N. C.  
 Northrop, H. C., Charlotte, N. C.  
 Orr, Mrs. Henry A., 10 Augusta Court, Greenville, S. C.  
 Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Mark., Chapel Hill, N. C.  
 Page, Rufus, Elizabethtown, N. C.  
 Pendleberry, Everett G., 2430 Roswell Ave., Charlotte, N. C.  
 Pendleton, Mrs. A. O., Post Office, Roanoke Rapids, N. C.  
 Perry, Kathleen, 105 N. Boylan Ave., Raleigh, N. C.  
 Redmon, Franklin E., 621 Royal Court, Charlotte, N. C.  
 Reeves, Mrs. J. B., Mill Cove, Brevard, N. C.  
 Rice, Mrs. Mary Louise, 340 Stratford Rd., Winston-Salem, N. C.  
 Sain, Herman, 2534 Main Ave., N. W., Hickory, N. C.  
 Sasser, Mrs. J. A., 1401 Ninth Ave., Conway, S. C.  
 Sharp, Mrs. Fannie A., W. Front St., Statesville, N. C.  
 Shaw, Margaret, Rocky Point, N. C.  
 Shields, C. W., Chapel Hill, N. C.  
 Smith, Banjo, 306 Westwood, Columbia, S. C.  
 Snuggs, Mrs. W. H., 131 Third St., Ablemarle, N. C.  
 Spencer, Dr. and Mrs. Merrill, Wake Drive, Winston-Salem, N. C.  
 Stains, Howard J., 1022 Ohio St., Lawrence, Kans.  
 Stephenson, Mrs. J. W., Western Blvd., Raleigh, N. C.  
 Stilley, Mrs. W. A., Conway, S. C.  
 Stubbs, Mrs. M. W., Garner, N. C.  
 Swingle, Robert F., Box 594, Aiken, S. C.  
 Tapp, Mrs. William F., Belmont Drive, Columbia, S. C.  
 Thompson, John, Epstein Building, Rocky Mount, N. C.  
 Tomkins, Ivan R., 1231 East 50 St., Savannah, Ga.  
 Underwood, Jim, King, N. C.  
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 Weisner, Ralph H., Rt. 1, Guilford College, N. C.  
 Werner, Ray C., 758 Wildwood Rd., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
 Wheeden, Mrs. Lee, P. O. Box 347, Roanoke Rapids, N. C.  
 Williams, Mrs. R. E., P. O. Box 1168, Reidsville, N. C.  
 Wills, Camilla, 1808 Winston Rd., Charlottesville, Va.  
 Worrell, Mrs. Cora B., 157 Cashua Dr., Florence, S. C.  
 Yelton, Miss Olen, Box 154, Morganton, N. C.



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With a Membership in the Carolina Bird Club and

# The Chat

*Your gift will be announced by an appropriate  
Christmas card, together with this issue.*

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## MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JANUARY 1

Renew now and save a lot of late holiday work for  
your Treasurer.

Regular .....	\$1.00	Club .....	\$ 2.00
Family .....	\$3.00	Contributing ...	\$ 25.00
Supporting.....	\$5.00	Life .....	\$100.00

Send renewals and new memberships to:

MRS. J. B. WHITENER, *Treasurer*  
130 Woodburn Road, Raleigh, N. C.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (4) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and the out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular .....	\$1.00	Contributing .....	\$25.00
Supporting .....	\$5.00	Affiliated Club .....	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

## OFFICERS FOR 1952-1953

*President*: Robert Overing, Route 4, Raleigh, N. C.

*Vice-Presidents*: Mrs. George C. Potter, Charlotte, N. C.; I. S. H. Metcalf, Charleston, S. C.; Fred H. May, Lenoir, N. C.

*Secretary*: Miss May W. Puett, Box 2183, Greenville, S. C.

*Treasurer*: Mrs. J. B. Whitener, 130 Woodburn Road, Raleigh, N. C.

The *Executive Committee* is composed of the Officers, the Editor, and the following four elected Members-at-Large: Joseph Jones, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Mrs. W. C. Mebane, Wilmington, N. C.; Fred Sample, Columbia, S. C.; and Thomas W. Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C.